Blue Valley Recreation
2020 Back to the Ballpark Guidelines
Updated 8/24/20

The following protocols & recommendations will be in place for youth baseball and softball games for the 2020 summer season. The purpose of this information is to provide as best as possible, a safe environment at the Sports Complex and to comply with local government mandates. Every attempt was made to uphold the integrity of the game in its original form as much as possible.

SAFETY PROTOCOLS:
1) All bleachers and benches will be removed from the playing areas. Spectators should bring their own chairs and umbrellas and will be expected to follow the 6 ft social distancing guidelines.
2) Dugouts – The following three options are available for all teams to use as dugout space:
   • Teams may sit with their parents when their team is up to bat or if they are not playing in the field. Players should keep all playing equipment with their parents.
   • Teams may set up areas for players to sit as long as they are 6 feet apart. These areas would include the space under the shade structures where the bleachers have been removed or down the foul lines, beyond the dugouts outside of the fence.
   • Teams may use an expanded dugout area. We have marked off some additional space outside the dugouts that teams can expand into and use both this space and the space in the dugout. Teams using this option are strongly encouraged to have your players spread out in this space and social distance.
3) Equipment – Players will be required to provide their own equipment and equipment should not be shared (batting helmet, gloves, catchers gear). The league will try and provide equipment for individuals to use (based on current availability). Coaches will be contacted about times to check out equipment if needed.
4) Teams in grades PreK to 2 will not be required to use catcher’s equipment. If the catcher is not wearing the catching gear, they should wear their batting helmet and stand off to the side by the backstop. Catchers gear may not be shared during a game.
5) Warmups – teams must maintain the 6 ft social distancing guidelines before, during & after warmups.
6) No team huddles. Communication with the team needs to follow social distancing guidelines.
7) At the conclusion of the game, no handshakes. Instead, teams should line up on the first and third baselines and give a tip of the cap to their opponents. This act of sportsmanship should be initiated by the coaches & umpires.
8) An additional 15 minutes will be built into the schedule between games to allow for teams to exit the complex prior to the next teams entering.
9) Umpire rooms will be open for umpires to change gear. The number of umpires allowed in each umpire room will be limited.
10) Courtesy rides for patrons will be limited to Fields 5-12 and 18-25. The rides will only be given from the front gates to the field and back to the front gate and only for patrons with serious physical limitations. Courtesy Rides will not be available at Fields 2-4, 13-15 & 16 & 17 because of space issues around those fields.

11) No sunflower seeds will be allowed at the complex.

12) Concession stands will be open. Credit card transactions are highly encouraged.

13) Bathrooms will be open and cleaned frequently. Water fountains will not be available.

14) During weather delays all players and parents will need to go to their cars. The head coach or a representative for each team may remain in the complex to alert their team when it is safe to return to the field.

RECOMMENDATIONS:
1) The wearing of face covering is encouraged for spectators at the Sports Complex. Players, coaches, and staff may wear face coverings if they choose. Face coverings may be homemade, or store bought.

2) Participants should wash/sanitize their hands and equipment after each game.

3) Teams are encouraged to provide and display hand sanitizer for their team for use before, during and after the game.

4) Social distancing is recommended whenever possible. Teams are encouraged not to gather as a group within close proximity of one another for pre or post game meetings.

5) Once your games have concluded, please leave the Sports Complex. Do not remain to watch other games.

6) We strongly encourage those individuals who are at high risk (Senior Citizens and those with underlying medical requirements) to avoid the ballpark.

7) All participants, fans and staff are encouraged to look for any signs of illness and do not come to the Sports Complex if you are showing any symptoms of Covid 19.

8) Playground areas will be closed for the 2020 summer season.

RULE CHANGES:
1) Pre-game meeting with umpires should be held with 6 ft social distancing guidelines.

2) Umpires on kid pitch games will return to the home plate area to call balls/strikes. They should distance themselves from the catcher and batter whenever possible.

3) Coaches operate pitching machines as normal. Proper hand sanitization is recommended.

4) Base coaches are allowed as normal. Social distancing rules apply.

5) Offensive conferences are allowed per normal rules. Social distancing rules apply.

6) Coaches will be allowed to meet with their pitcher for a conference per normal rules. Social distancing rules apply.

7) In the event of an injury – only the coach or parent may attend to the player unless medical attention is required.

8) Coaches may request a time out to talk to an umpire. Social distancing rules apply.

9) Game balls will return to normal with the umpires being responsible for managing the game balls. The umpires will provide the game balls for all player pitch games.

10) Uniform rules will be relaxed this season. Teams are encouraged to have the same color jersey with a number.