

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS REGARDING RE-OPENING BASEBALL MWOB Coaches, Parents and Administrators:

These are very difficult times. Ideally, we would like everyone to feel 100% comfortable with the Governor's guidelines for Re-Opening Baseball in Ohio. The bottom line is there is an inherent risk of exposure in any public place where people are present. COVID-19 is an extremely contagious disease that can lead to severe illness and death. According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, senior citizens and guests with underlying medical conditions are especially vulnerable.

By choosing to participate you voluntarily assume all risks related to exposure to COVID-19. We know and understand that some families will choose not to play this summer. We wish those people well and hope they will return to baseball in 2021.

Our goal is to provide a safe, competitive opportunity to all of those who choose to participate. The League will follow all the protocol established by the Governor and set out in the Guidelines.

Personally, we are excited to get going and allow the kids who have endured so much enjoy being a kid again.

Here are the most frequently asked questions:

1) Many players have other commitments (out of town, other sports, etc.) currently planned in July. What do we do if we want to play in the League but cannot get all our League Games completed? **For ANY division where the League games exceed your team's ability to play, for WHATEVER REASON, simply play as many games as possible within the confines of your teams' ability to play this season. There are no awards this season. This season is all about kids playing baseball and we elected the new League schedule to maximize the possible games available. Play what you can play.**

2) Are there any game rule changes, such as no stealing to avoid holding runners on base? **No, we will not be altering the game rules at this time.**

3) We do have 1-2 players who will be missing large parts of the season (July) due to custody-related arrangements and having to be with the other parent who is out of State. Will the team be punished (forfeit) games they cannot get scheduled or played due to missing players? **No, not at all. For ANY division where the League games exceed your team's ability to play, for WHATEVER REASON, simply play as many games as possible within the confines of your teams' ability to play this season. There are no awards this season. This season is all about kids playing baseball and we elected the new League schedule to maximize the possible games available. Play what you can play.**

4) What are the suggestions for dugouts when the team is batting? Most dugouts are too small to ensure 6 ft distancing between players when they are in the dugouts. We trust our coaches, and fully expect that many organizations/fields will cordon off areas around the dugout, but outside the fence from spectators for the coaches to create a safe area for players who cannot fit in the dugout. The high school rules on page 15 Article #4 allows the expansion of the dugout area for Temporary situations. All actions of your team, including all decisions about social distancing and the dugout, are the responsibility of the coaches. Coaches, and parents should be able to monitor their own situation. No one else should be involved.

5) Are the dugouts field of play, or not? The guidelines are attached. All actions of your team, including all decisions about social distancing and the dugout, are the responsibility of the coaches. Coaches, and parents should be able to monitor their own situation. No one else should be involved.

6) I know we had been informed that when/if we resumed we would have 2 weeks of practice before games would start. Do practices start on May 26 or is that when the games start? May 26th is the release day for Re-opening baseball Ohio and is the first day to play any team baseball within the guidelines. We trust that the Coaches and Parents will look out for the best interests of their kids, their teams, and their organizations and follow the guidelines. Each coach is responsible for making sure that their players are game ready prior to them starting their season. For League purposes the season will be from May 26-August 2.

7) Is there at 9U machine pitch day or tournament available? We would be VERY interested in that. Anyone wanting to play Machine Pitch Games or a Machine Pitch Tournament, should contact Gregg Beemer at 937-307-7988 or gbeemer50@gmail.com and he will work to put it together.

8) As it relates to the 1st week of the season and pitch counts, if a player throws (24) or fewer pitches, do they need (1) day rest before they're available to pitch again (until June 3rd when it expands to 40)? Those first two weeks require 2 full calendar days between pitching appearances. Thereafter, normal adherence to normal pitch count rules apply.

9) Unfortunately, due to COVID, it is not going to be possible for our team to participate in the Midwest Ohio Baseball League this season. Will there be any credit or refunds available?

First, we are having a League. All teams are free to choose not to play but that is their choice. Here is what we do know regarding the league fees of \$325: Nearly all of our expenses are paid between November and the end of February prior to the start of the season. League expenses include, but are not limited to the following: rental fees for meeting rooms, awards, computer design and management, social media management, League insurance, accounting, tax

preparation, legal, advertising, Dayton Dragon nights, office supplies, phones, internet and league administration. None of these expenses are reimbursable to the League.

Optional expenses such as umpire schedulers, team insurance and baseballs are separate from league fees. The umpire schedulers have done their job. Baseballs have either been delivered or will be delivered for those that ordered late; we are working with the insurance company and if we are successful at getting any type of credit, that would be applied to any insured teams returning next season.

These are extraordinary times. We more than understand the difficulties this situation has put on each program and parents. We are also very grateful for those who understand the difficulty this has placed on us. We are looking at all available options from a credit or partial credit toward League fees to holding a League wide tournament event in 2021. The League has always had the position of dealing with everyone equitably and fairly. At the end of the season, we will take inventory of where we are at, we will reach out to our coaches to survey them regarding options such as a partial credit, or tournament option.

10) I won't have enough for a team due to 3 players deciding not to play. For any teams where the roster shrinks due to players deciding not to play, email Gregg Beemer at: gbeemer50@gmail.com as we intend to try to merge teams together in order to allow players to play baseball this summer. We are suspending the rule regarding cut-off date to expand your roster.

11) What about the OHSAA ruling that high school fields are closed until 6/30? During the Governor's press conference Thursday (at the 1:06-1:10 mark), Jon Husted specifically addressed that the Governor Order only related to closing school buildings, not anything to do with the grounds, including the baseball fields. Each school Board and superintendent is responsible for those decisions. We would strongly encourage you to contact your local schools and administration to see if those could be opened.

12) As for games, am I correct that each team must keep their own set of baseballs that we use in our defensive half of the inning? Yes. Are we to sanitize the baseballs between innings? We trust that the Coaches and Parents will look out for the best interests of their kids, their teams, and their organizations and apply their understandings of the guidelines as they see fit.

13) How do I go about pulling my team out of league? Please email your team name, coaches name and age group to: help@midwestohiobaseball.com. Also, please contact your umpire assignor to inform them as well.

14) There's been a few people ask about the catcher position. Will catchers in 9U and up be in normal distance behind the plate? Yes.

15) Guidelines requiring kids to wear masks while sitting on the bench, in my opinion, falls outside of common sense related to the transmission of disease. I feel like the masks could cause more damage as we are playing into the summer with the heat and preventing the normal flow of oxygen and carbon dioxide. What we think does not matter as we are under Governor's

guidelines and they are what they are at this time. With that being said, Midwest Ohio Baseball League trusts that the Coaches and Parents will look out for the best interests of their kids, their teams, and their organizations.

16) Where will umpires be stationed etc.? The umpires will be in their normal position(s) and subject to the Umpires Guidelines. We reserve the right to decide to move all plate officiating to behind the pitchers mound if we determine that makes more sense.

17) My field is not going to be available for play. What do I do? You may play all games on the road. Explain to coaches and they will work with you to split home/away if you are playing each other twice.

18) I ordered, paid for and not yet received baseballs. When and where can they be picked up? Rawlings was closed as a non-essential business but baseballs have shipped and are in route. We will send out a one-call when they are received with instructions for pick-up.

19) IS the time limit still 1:30? No, we will move the time limit to 2 Hours with no new inning after 2 hours. However, teams who agree together at any time during the game (or before) may limit the number of innings played to be a completed game. Thus, teams playing a DH may elect to play 2 5-inning games and those will count as completed games.

20) How can I protect myself from legal liability? Midwest Ohio Baseball cannot give legal advice. However, we strongly recommend that each coach provide the Guidelines to each parent if you have not already done so.

20) How do I post team photos and team news to the website? Send to:
help@midwestohiobasball.com