

FIELD PERMIT RECOMMENDATIONS

The RBI National Office understands that obtaining a field permit in the age of COVID-19 can be difficult and may require your organization to have specific plans in place regarding participant safety. While some cities and municipalities may simply require the review and consent of local policies, others may require your organization to submit its own policies on how you will manage the safety aspects of group gatherings.

First and foremost, we suggest a review of your local city or municipality and state guidelines on topics such as outdoor recreation, organized sports and athletics, or recreational spaces and sports complexes, which can often be found on local government websites. To assist, the below resource was established to provide you with a list of common topics and questions that may be asked on a field permit application. We have provided best practices and suggestions to help you tailor your organization's own policies and return to play practices. Included is space for you to workshop how these topics apply to your own organization and to help you prepare your future field permit.

ATTENDANCE

Does your city/municipality have restrictions on public gatherings, or further, restrictions on recreation or youth sport activities? How will your organization ensure compliance with local restrictions?

Things to Consider:

- Review city/municipality and/or state government websites, looking for potential guidelines specific to recreational activities, parks and sports facilities, and youth sports activities to ensure your activity is consistent with your local guidelines.
- Consider digital options for player registration and daily attendance tracking.
 - Digital registration provides for contactless paperwork and payment.
 - Daily attendance trackers can help facilitate with contact tracing in the event of a positive COVID-19 case within your organization or community.
- Appoint a COVID-19 coordinator within your organization or teams to ensure compliance with your local requirements.

SAFETY MEASURES FOR PARTICIPATION

What is your organization's plan for participant health screening?

Things to Consider:

- Prior to participation, all players, employees, and volunteers should be evaluated to ensure they do not have a fever of 100.4°F or are exhibiting symptoms of COVID-19.
 - Any individual who has a temperature of 100.4°F or exhibits any COVID-19 symptom, should not participate in group activity and be sent home immediately.
- Maintain a daily log of participants and contact information in the event there is a report of a positive case of COVID-19 from within your organization.
 - Attendance records will help you notify others who may have been in close contact with the individual of their potential exposure and potential need for quarantine or additional medical attention.
- Keep daily records to potentially assist your local or state contact tracing efforts.

PERSONAL PROTECTIVE EQUIPMENT (“PPE”)

What is your organization's plan for ensuring face mask or face covering usage?

Things to Consider:

- Check your state and local ordinances to see where face mask or face covering usage is required.
- Plan for non-playing staff and participants to wear a face mask or face covering at all times, including in the dugout or along the sidelines, and where social distancing is not possible.
- Consider whether players should be, or are required by state or local ordinance, to wear a face mask or face covering while on field or performing strenuous athletic activities.
- Work with outside parties, such as umpires and athletic trainers, to ensure organizational rules on face mask or face covering usage are followed at your events.

HYGIENE & SANITIZING

How will your organization promote hygiene for participants and sanitization of personal or shared equipment?

Things to Consider:

- Increase the availability of handwashing and/or hand-sanitizing stations at the facility. Sanitize hands throughout practice and games.
- Dedicate staff to sanitize high-touch areas, common areas, and shared surfaces.
- Plan to not have participants share equipment (gloves, bat, batters' helmet, batting gloves, catcher's equipment). If it is necessary to share equipment, clean and disinfect equipment between uses.
- Request that parents/guardians clean and disinfect personal equipment before and after group activities.
- Rotate out the use of baseball and softballs to allow for cleaning.

PHYSICAL DISTANCING

How will you promote physical distancing during your practices and contests?

Things to Consider:

- Structure practices and workouts where participants and coaches maintain a consistent six feet of distance from one another if the activity allows.
- If space permits, allow for physical distancing in the dugouts.
- During contests, plan on opposite teams not socializing or coming within six feet of one another.
- Discourage physical interactions, such as high-fives and fist bumps, between teammates and personnel.

FACILITY MAINTENANCE

How will you promote your safety protocols at your facility? What other steps will you take for keeping the space clean?

Things to Consider:

- Create and maintain signage for the location regarding social distancing and COVID-19 symptoms to promote safety for participants, spectators, and guests.
- Ensure the proper disposal of one-use face coverings and other PPE.
- Prohibit the use of seeds, bubble gum, and spitting to help keep the playing surface and facility clean.

SPECTATORS

Does your city/municipality have restrictions on public gathering sizes? What will your organization do to ensure spectators attending your events abide by local ordinances?

Things to Consider:

- Educate parents/guardians, families, and other guests early and often of any potential restrictions on attendance.
 - Consider the use of a digital registration platform to send regular communication to your participants and their families.
- Consider limiting the number spectators per participant, based on your local ordinances.
- Make and send clear schedules for arrival and departure times for participants and spectators to limit large congregations of people.
- Evaluate the facility's seating and increase signage or boundaries to help promote local ordinances on social distancing.