



COVID-19 GUIDELINES FOR YOUTH SPORTS

Updated December 2, 2020

Stephenville Parks and Recreation Department has reviewed multiple guidelines to operate our league safely. After reviewing guidance from the State of Texas, sports associations and other outlets we have come up with a plan of action that consists of universal changes that will be applied to all divisions, as well as league-specific rule changes based on age groups. Our goal is to operate our leagues in the safest way possible, while adhering to available state and local guidelines and, in some cases, creating even stricter rules to protect our players, coaches, staff and fans.



Universal changes that will be applied across all divisions include the following:

All individuals are required to comply with all Stephenville Parks and Recreation Department guidelines and policies, including this policy, code of ethics policy and local and TAAF playing rules. Violations of this policy will be addressed by Stephenville Parks and Recreation Department staff which could result in verbal warnings, removal from the facility and/or potential delay or forfeit of a game.

● **SPARD Guidelines:**

- Trained SPARD staff will administer a COVID-19 screening questionnaire and record body temperature for all individuals before entry to a facility.
- Individuals, including coaches, players, and families, should stay home if they have tested positive for or are showing COVID-19 symptoms.
- Individuals, including coaches, players, and families, who have recently had a close contact with a person with COVID-19 should also stay home and monitor their health.
- All individuals are required to wear face coverings as described in Executive Order GA-19.
- 50% seating capacity in each facility.
- No more than 10 participants playing a sport at a time.
- SPARD will do our best to create smaller rosters in every division to provide space for distancing. The amount of volunteer coaches in each division affects the amount of teams that can be formed.
- SPARD will procure hand sanitizer and make it available at all practices and game sites for players, coaches and spectators.
- SPARD will procure equipment to sanitize after each game.
- SPARD will create schedules with staggered start times and time limits to disinfect before every game and practice and to ensure that there is time for players, coaches and spectators to exit the area prior to the next scheduled game.
- Assigned staggered times throughout the season for competing teams and spectators to arrive.
- Coaches, players and spectators cannot attend games that they are not coaching, playing or bringing the participant to or in.
- No outside food or drinks.
- These guidelines are subject to change at any time due to COVID-19.

● **Facilities and Equipment:**

- Equipment
 - Must be sanitized before, during and after every practice and game. SPARD staff and volunteer coaches will accomplish this.



- Sidelines
 - Sidelines will have hand sanitizer stations available for use by coaches, players and referees.
 - Benches, dugouts and all other touch points will be sanitized by SPARD staff before, during and after every practice and game.
- Restrooms
 - Restrooms will be cleaned and disinfected throughout the day by SPARD staff.
- Bleachers
 - Spectators must maintain a minimum six feet of distance between groups. A group is defined as no more than 10 people including the members of the household and those persons who traveled together to the facility.
 - It is not permitted to set on consecutive rows in the stands.
- Team Benches
 - Social distancing should be practiced when possible.
 - Opposite of spectator seating when possible.
 - Separation from spectator seating behind the bench when possible.
- Concession Stands
 - Social distancing marks will be made for concession lines, sanitizing stations will be available and staff will wear all appropriate PPE.
- Signage
 - There will be directions on entering and exiting the facility safely
 - There will be directions on Safety/Hygiene. Such as practicing Social Distancing, the use of Face Coverings, frequent hand washing, etc.

● ***Coaches and Volunteers:***

- Must conduct daily symptom assessments (self-evaluation). Anyone experiencing symptoms must stay home.
- Face coverings must be worn by coaches, managers and volunteers.
- Must adhere to physical six-foot distancing whenever possible.
- Must assess the conditions of players. If someone appears to be ill, the coach must immediately stop the game and have the player leave the facility with his or her parents/guardians.
- Must encourage and enforce sanitation requirements for players and fans:
 - No touch rules
 - 6' distancing whenever possible
 - Sanitizing equipment on a frequent basis
- Should clean their hands with provided sanitizer frequently.

● ***Players:***

- Parents/Guardians must conduct daily symptom assessments (self-evaluation). Anyone experiencing symptoms must stay home.



- Face coverings do not have to be worn while actively competing on the court.
- Face coverings must be worn by players not on the participating in practice or game.
- Must abide by 6' distancing rule while not actively participating in practice, warm-up or game.
- Must bring their own water/beverage container, marked with their name. There will be no team water coolers or shared drinking stations. Please be sure to bring enough water/beverage.
- Must not share equipment with other players.
- Should only travel to the venue alone or with a member(s) of their immediate household.
- Must observe no touch rules and refrain from high fives, handshake lines, and other physical contact with teammates, opposing players, coaches, referees, and fans. Sportsmanship after game should be a wave if anything.
- Should clean their hands with provided sanitizer as often as possible.
- Spitting of all forms will be prohibited.

● **Officials:**

- Must conduct daily symptom assessments (self-evaluation). Anyone experiencing symptoms must stay home.
- Face coverings do not have to be worn while actively officiating on the court.
- Face coverings must be worn by players not in the match (while on the bench or not actively participating in game or warm-ups).
- Must adhere to six-foot social distancing practices when interacting with players, coaches, and spectators off the field of play. This includes any on field meetings.
- Must avoid exchanging documents or equipment with players, coaches, or spectators.

● **Spectators/Guardians:**

- ONLY 2 spectators are permitted to attend with a player for a scheduled game.
- 2 attending spectators MUST arrive with the player.
- If an attending spectator exits the facility this does not permit another spectator entry.
- Must conduct daily symptom assessments (self-evaluation). Anyone experiencing symptoms must stay home.
- All individuals are required to wear face coverings as described in Executive Order GA-19.
- Spectators must maintain a minimum six feet of distance between groups. A group is defined as no more than 10 people including the members of the household and those persons who traveled together to the facility.
- Will not be permitted on the field or court of play.
- It is not permitted to set on consecutive rows in the stands.

● **All Divisions:**

- We will limit the number of coaches / volunteers to no more than 2 per team per game.
- Contact will be further limited, and emphasis put on drills and technique.
- Frequent water and sanitization breaks will be required for both practices and games.



- We will instruct coaches to maintain a “realistic” distance that will facilitate coaching of a contact sport but mitigate unnecessary safety risks.

Leaving the Venue:

- Clear out of the venue through the designated exit in a timely manner while maintaining a minimum of 6 foot between groups.
- There will be no team meetings/huddles following a game. Coaches will communicate any messaging via email or the team mobile app.
- Individuals should not congregate in common areas or parking lots following games/practices.
- There will be no team snacks, or team pictures following games in any division.

Suspected or Confirmed Cases of Coronavirus:

- Immediately isolate and seek medical care for any individual who develops symptoms.
- Contact health officials about suspected cases or exposure.
- Contact CV Black, Recreation Superintendent, for all concerns related to COVID-19.

Important Contact Information:

Stephenville Parks and Recreation Department

Phone: 254-918-1295 **Address:** 378 W. Long Street, Stephenville, TX 76401

Hours: Monday – Friday 8:00 AM to 5:00 PM

Full-time SPARD staff:

- Recreation Superintendent: CV Black
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- Recreation Coordinator (Athletics & Aquatics): Ashley Snyder
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