



Return to Play Plan from the
COVID Crisis Presentation

Date: February 5, 2021



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Goal Statement

Help reduce the risks of COVID transmission in youth baseball by:

- Creating Baseball specific procedures that comply with CDC and Commonwealth of PA Dept of Health
- Setting Clear Expectations for Coaches, Athletes, Parents and Umpires
- Using this presentation as a training tool for DAA Baseball
- This presentation is not intended to address other concerns such as game play safety, general sportsmanship, etc.



A New Role for a New Situation

We are in unprecedented times and changing times. Our roles as coaches, parents and spectators need to change to reduce the risk of COVID transmission among our community.

Moving forward, each DAA team needs to have, at minimum, one Compliance Volunteer for each event. The volunteer may change for each event.

The Compliance Volunteer purpose is to:

- 1) Assist with compliance of Coaches, Parents, Athletes, Spectators and Umpires to Return to Play procedures for an entire event and, thereafter, any concerns created by that event.
- 2) Assist with a potential Contact Tracing effort
- 3) Report and refusals to comply or compliance excursions that are not immediately corrected to the DAA Baseball Advisory Committee



Self-Screening Tool

Symptoms Check

1. Do you have a fever?
2. Do you have a cough or shortness of breath?
3. Do you have a loss of or reduced taste and smell?
4. Do you have chills and/or experienced shaking with chills?
5. Do you have body aches and/or worsening aches?
6. Do you have a sore throat?
7. Are you taking medication to reduce the effects of a fever?

Exposure risk factors

- a) Have you had close contact (within 6' and >15 minutes) with anyone who has been confirmed with COVID-19 ?
- b) Have you been tested for COVID-19 in the past 14 days because of symptoms?
- c) My athlete participated in a car-pool where he/she did not wear a mask?
- d) My athlete should be quarantined based on the screening tool guidelines?.

You = Person filling out the screening tool, plus any Parent, Guardian, Athlete, Household member of the athlete or anyone who has had close contact (withing 6' for 15+minutes) with the athlete

When submitting the Screening results, the Parent/Guardian may simply provide the CV and Coach with the statement via email:

“I (Name) state that I have answered NO to all the above questions for my athlete (NAME), myself, all household members, spectators attending the event and anyone who has been in close contact with the athlete.” All YES answers need to be explained to the CV.



Self-Screening Tool - Result Actions

Questions 1 -7:

- A “Yes” answer for the athlete, household member or someone who has had close contact with the athlete:
 - Athlete and any carpool athlete becomes ineligible to participate for 72 hours until they are symptom-free without medication.

Questions A: A “yes” answer results in the athlete, and any carpool athletes becoming ineligible to participate for 72 hours.

Question B: A “yes” answer, results in the athlete and any carpool athlete becoming ineligible until the following:

- COVID-19 Test yields a Negative Result: Athlete may resume activities
- COVID-19 Test yields a Positive Result: Athlete cannot participate until athlete is cleared by a healthcare provider AND at least 14 days AFTER the testing date

Question C: A “yes” answer: If a member of a carpool is not wearing a mask, the carpool should be reminded to wear a mask.

Question D: A “yes” answer results in athlete not participating until quarantine period elapses.



Games and Practices

- Coaches will only permit those athletes to practice if a self-screening tool has been submitted and reviewed prior to the practice or game.
- Coaches will maintain a supply of masks to be made available to any player who forgets, loses or drops their mask
- Coaches and athletes must adhere to social distancing guidelines at all times, by:
 - All players and coaches will sanitize their hands often during events
 - Wearing facemasks at all times as required
 - Ensure no sharing of water bottles
 - Outside of normal Baseball gameplay, ensure athletes do not touch one another



Batting Cages & Batting Tees

- The Coach who throws batting practice must be the only one who touches the baseballs
- Athletes can kick or tap balls back the coach to assist in ball retrieval. Athletes may not touch the baseballs with their hands
- The coach's household member may assist in retrieval
- Coaches must clearly mark where athletes are to stand while waiting their turn
- If Tee work is utilized, athletes must sanitize hands before and after tee work unless they are using their own personal baseballs



Tournaments

- DAA Rules and Procedures remain in force during tournaments. If any of the tournament requirements are more stringent than specific items in the DAA Rules and Procedures, the tournament procedure should be followed.
- Parents, must become aware of the tournament rules and may elect to defer from attending if they feel the rules are not aligned to their expectations.



Athlete Expectations

- Must adhere to the 6 Foot Social Distancing and wear a mask
- Must arrive with enough sanitizer and water to last the whole event
- Must arrive with a personal facemask that is initialed for clear identification
- Must not share water bottles or equipment unless it is sanitized by an adult
- Must not chew seeds or gum and are discouraged from spitting while at any event
- A “tip of the cap” will replace high fives. Following games, the athletes will stand on each baseline, 6’ apart and tip caps towards the opposing team and umpires



Parent Expectations



- Thoroughly complete the Self-Screening tool before arriving at the event and provide it to the Compliance Volunteer....preferably electronically.
- Try to be available and assist DAA in providing a safer environment for everyone.
- Must adhere to 6 Foot Social Distancing and wear facemask.
- Provide enough sanitizer and water for your athlete



Coaches + Compliance Volunteer Expectations

- Identify the Compliance Volunteer(s) for your event (can be rotating)
- Have a Plan for Practices and Games to maintain social distancing
- Exchange phone numbers or email of the opposing coach in case a positive case is found on a team and contact tracing needs to occur
- Coaches should wear masks and maintain 6 feet from any non-household member.
- Submit Schedule of all team events to DAA Board
- Submit to DAA Board COVID checklist within 48 hours after each event (documenting compliance)
- Submit/have available DAA Participant / “invited” Spectator list after each event for potential contact tracing



Injuries

- If a player is injured and a parent/guardian is present:
 - Coaches are to use their best judgment on attending to the athlete. The attending coach must wear a facemask.
 - The Parent/Guardian may attend to the athlete, if necessary, to permit social distancing.
- If player is injured and a parent/guardian is NOT present:
 - Coach/Attending Adult must wear a facemask while attending the athlete
 - If the athlete needs attention, the athlete must be wear a facemask.
 - The person delivering the facemask, must sanitize his/her hands before AND after handling the facemask of the athlete
 - In all cases, reasonable judgment should be taken given the nature of the injury and the need to attend in an urgent manner.



Confirmed Case Reporting

Parents, Coaches, Opposing Team Coaches, Umpires and Household members of the athlete must report to the Team's Coach AND the DAA Baseball Advisory Committee the following:

1. If themselves, anyone in their household, a spectator, or anyone who has been in close contact with the athlete is being tested for COVID-19
2. The results of the test and provide proof of the test result to the Coach and DAA Advisory Committee

Coaches and the DAA Baseball Advisory Committee may NOT disclose the name of the person being tested without written approval from the person or the parent/guardian, if they are a minor.

→ DAA Baseball will communicate to the DAA Board for all confirmed cases



Contact Tracing

Upon notification that a Parent, Coach, athlete, Opposing Team member, Umpires and Household members of an athlete, are being tested for COVID-19, a contact tracing effort will occur, urgently, as per the following procedure:

- A contact tracing list will be generated by the CV to identify anyone who may have been in close contact with the person being tested. (CDC Guidelines: Close Contact = within 6' for more than 15 minutes)
- If it's an athlete being tested, ALL families will be notified
- The coach will email the DAA Baseball Advisory Committee after everyone has been contacted.
- The same notification will occur once the test results are known.

Reminder: No one may disclose the name of the person being tested without written approval from the person or the parent/guardian, if they are a minor.



Thank You

The voluntary DAA Baseball Advisory Committee would like to thank you for learning our plan to help reduce the spread of COVID-19 during baseball activities. There is residual risk of transmission as there is risk in any sport for injury. We feel if everyone follows the new “rules” it will provide a safer environment for everyone.

The DAA Baseball Advisory Committee is a volunteer organization. We do not purport that our procedures will eliminate the risk of COVID-19 spread while engaging in baseball activities. It is not the sole responsibility of DAA Baseball or the coaches to keep our athletes safe. Parents/guardians need to take an active role in setting expectations with their athletes, observing behaviors during events, and having the courage to respectfully notify coaches or the DAA Advisory Committee of non-compliance or better methods to keep everyone safer.

These procedures and expectations may change as CDC, local government guidelines change and/or upon further review with the Advisory Committee. All changes will be communicated.

If you would like contact the DAA Baseball Advisory Committee, please call or email the Sports Director

