

**WINTERVILLE PARKS & RECREATION**  
**GUIDELINES FOR FALL BASEBALL LEAGUE OPERATIONS**

All of the below guidelines are for Winterville Fall Baseball Leagues (Rookie, Minor and Major) operations. These guidelines have been assembled in an effort to allow league play to resume in compliance with best practices, rules, and regulations. **This is a working document that will be regularly updated** based upon information, guidance, rules, regulations, etc., obtained from local, State, and Federal agencies and organization. **The information in this document is based upon the information currently available and does not include speculation of operations related information for future phases of State recovery.** Information may change at any time for any reason.

If you have questions regarding any of the information included in this document, please call Winterville Parks and Recreation Department at 252-756-1487

**GENERAL**

1. COVID-19 Waivers must be completed by coaches and participants. Waiver must be received by Department prior to participating in any team/league activities.
2. **Equipment: No equipment may be shared amongst players and coaches during practice or games.** Examples of equipment include batting helmets, catchers gear, bats, and gloves.
  - a. If a team was issued batting helmets, bats, gloves/mitts, and/or catchers gear this is to be returned to Department Staff as soon as possible.
  - b. Participants using own equipment should label so that someone else does not try to use or take in error.
3. **Physical Contact: No unnecessary physical contact before, during, or after practices, games or other league/team activity.** Examples: shaking hands at plate meeting, shaking hands after games, high fives, fist bumps, celebrations, etc.
  - a. Coaches, officials, participants, parents, and others should modify communication to avoid up close face to face communication.
4. **No huddles.**
5. It is recommended that all involved conduct a screening at home prior to attending game, practice, or other league/team activity. Screening should include checking body temperature to ensure that no fever is present prior to participating in each league activity.
6. Per CDC guidelines, if an athlete, coach, staff, parent/guardian or participant has been diagnosed with COVID-19 or is presumed positive by a medical professional due to symptoms, they are to be excluded from any and all league activities until:
  - a. No fever for at least 72 hours since recovery (without the use of fever-reducing medicine) AND
  - b. Other symptoms have improved (e.g., coughing, shortness of breath), AND
  - c. At Least 10 days have passed since first symptoms.
7. Per CDC guidelines, if an athlete, coach, staff, parent/guardian or participant has been diagnosed with COVID-19 but does not have symptoms, they shall remain out of league activities until 10 days have passed since the date of their first positive COVID-19 diagnostic test, assuming they have not subsequently developed symptoms since their positive test.

8. Individuals, including coaches, players, and families, who have recently had [close contact](#) with a person with COVID-19 should also [stay home and monitor their health](#).
9. Participants, coaches, staff, officials, and others involved shall be removed and sent home if they become sick while on-site. They shall be required to wear masks until leaving the facility.
10. Dugouts: Due to nature of social distancing, and size of dugouts, no more than 3 people may be in dugout structure at one time. Please see below for additional information regarding use of dugouts.
  - a. Three people in dugouts includes maximum of 1 coach and 2 players or no coaches and 3 players.
  - b. In place of dugouts, players shall place equipment, in a properly spaced manner, in appropriate location. Locations are marked on ground with white paint. Locations are dependent upon field and include: outside of ball field fence (Smith & Ruritan Fields) or inside dugout/bullpen fence but not under dugout structure (McLawnhorn & Kiwanis Fields).
  - c. Any time during the course of a practice or game that players and coaches would be in dugout, due to the nature of a practice exercise or game play, no more than 3 people should be in dugout at one time. Remaining players and coaches should stage as outlined in 10b, above.
11. All benches, picnic tables, and bleachers will be closed or removed, depending upon mobility. Attendees should bring own chair, blanket, or other seating device.
12. No seeds, gum, or peanuts permitted for use at games and practices.
13. No spitting.
14. All involved shall bring their own personal food and drink to all team activities. These should be labeled with person's name.
  - a. Absolutely no sharing of food and drink.
  - b. No team snack, food, water coolers, etc.
15. Town of Winterville concession stands are closed until further notice. Please prepare food, drink, ice, etc. accordingly and in line with other provided applicable information.
16. Players should not wear medical gloves, on field, for games or practices.
17. Parking: Parking in the below areas is encouraged to help with flow and gathering/overlap.
  - a. Kiwanis Field and McLawnhorn Field: Old section of main parking lot.
  - b. Ruritan Field: Grass area behind fields on Division Street.
  - c. Smith Field: New section of main parking lot and marked parking spaces off Division Street, beyond Smith Field outfield.
  - d. AG Cox Softball Field: Sylvania Street (on street) and new section of main parking lot.
18. Face coverings: Per NC DHHS and NC Governor's Executive Order, people must wear face coverings when in public places, indoor or outdoor, where physical distancing of 6 feet from other people who are not members of the same household or residence is not possible.
  - a. Coaches, Game Officials, & Participants: Face coverings may be challenging for players, coaches, and officials (especially younger players) to wear during games. Face coverings are strongly recommended when not actively engaged in physical activity.
  - b. NC DHHS recommends that children over age 2 wear a cloth face covering if they can reliably wear, remove, and handle cloth face coverings throughout the day, unless there is an exception. Face coverings should not be put on babies and children under the age of 2.

- c. Exceptions to North Carolina face covering requirements: Face coverings do not need to be worn by a worker, customer, or patron who:
  - i. Should not wear a face covering due to any medical or behavioral condition or disability (including, but not limited to, any person who has trouble breathing, or is unconscious or incapacitated, or is otherwise unable to put on or remove the Face Covering without assistance);
  - ii. Is under 5 years of age;
  - iii. Is actively eating or drinking;
  - iv. Is strenuously exercising;
  - v. Is seeking to communicate with someone who is hearing-impaired in a way that requires the mouth to become visible;
  - vi. Is giving a speech for a broadcast or to an audience;
  - vii. Is working at home or alone in a vehicle;
  - viii. Is temporarily removing his or her face covering to secure governmental or medical services or for identification purposes;
  - ix. Would be at risk from wearing a face covering at work, as determined by local, state, or federal regulators or workplace safety guidelines;
  - x. Has found that his or her face covering is impeding visibility to operate equipment or a vehicle; or
  - xi. Is a child whose parent, guardian, or responsible person has been unable to place the face covering safely on the child's face.

Anyone who declines to wear a Face Covering for these reasons should not be required to produce documentation or any other proof of a condition.

Children under 2 years of age should not wear a face covering.

- 19. Social Distancing: Social distancing guidelines of six feet (6') shall be followed at all times during and outside of games and practices.
  - a. Social distancing will be enforced by coaching staff members and Department Staff, when on-site, and site supervisors at the various off-site game locations.
  - b. When Department Staff not on-site, social distancing shall solely be enforced by member of coaching staff or respective site supervisor.
  - c. There will be times where social distancing may not be possible due to participation in and nature of practices and games.
- 20. Enforcement of Social Distancing, Face Coverings, and Spectator Limitations: It is the intention of Winterville Parks and Recreation Department to be polite and professional if violations occur. If a violation does occur, we will educate and inform individual(s) of applicable rules and regulations and ask that they comply. Should individual(s) refuse to follow rules and regulations, Department Staff will inform individual(s) that they will be asked to leave park property should they choose not to comply.
  - a. We ask that people respect the rules and regulations in place so that we can all enjoy the game.

21. NC DHHS Important COVID-19 web links:
  - a. <https://covid19.ncdhhs.gov/>
  - b. <https://covid19.ncdhhs.gov/latest-updates>
  - c. <https://covid19.ncdhhs.gov/materials-resources>

## PRACTICES

1. Gathering Limitations: Only 1 team shall use an assigned field space at a time. Team is limited to rostered players and rostered coaches.
2. Scrimmages: No team may scrimmage another, during practice season. A team may conduct a scrimmage if only using rostered players and coaches from own team. Commonly referred to as an intra-squad scrimmage.
3. Practices per week. Teams may practice no more than 3 times per week. Each team gets 1 permanent practice slot and up to 2 additional practice slots (weekly slots). Practice space will be limited and there is no guarantee of practicing more than once per week.
4. Practice Times: In an effort to decrease the chances of large numbers of participants, spectators, etc. congregating in between practice, there will be 30 minutes in between each scheduled practice. Practices shall begin and conclude promptly at scheduled time. Teams shall not enter a field until scheduled practice time and leave promptly at end of practice time.
5. Batting Cages: Cages go with fields unless fields closed due to weather conditions.
  - a. Weeknight Slots: All cages for use by one field per time slot, as shown below. Time slots are 15 minutes with 5 minutes between slots.
    - i. 5:00-6:00 pm practice field slots: McLawhorn 5:00-5:15, Ruritan 5:20-5:35, Kiwanis 5:40-5:55, Smith 6:00-6:15
    - ii. 6:30-7:30 pm practice field slots: McLawhorn 6:20-6:35, Ruritan 6:40-6:55, Kiwanis 7:00-7:15, Smith 7:20-7:35
    - iii. 8:00-9:00 pm practice field slots: McLawhorn 7:45-8:00, Ruritan 8:05-8:20, Kiwanis 8:25-8:40, Smith 9:00-9:15
  - b. Weekend Slots: All cages for use by one field per cage time slot. Time slots are 20 minutes with 5 minutes between slots.
    - i. Cage slots start on the hour just like field practices. While the starting hour shown in example below may change the slots remain the same.
    - ii. Example – 8:00-9:30am field slot: McLawhorn 8:00-8:20, Ruritan 8:25-8:45, Kiwanis 8:50-9:10, Smith 9:15-9:35
  - c. **If fields are closed due to field conditions, cages must be scheduled.** In this case, cages will be scheduled in 30 minute slots with 10 minutes between each slot. Scheduling will be done on a first come, first served, basis. Priority scheduling to teams with fields scheduled for same day. **To schedule, please contact Recreation Program Supervisor, Ian McLeod.**
    - i. Cage Slots: 5:00-5:30, 5:40-6:10, 6:20-6:50, 7:00-7:30, 7:40-8:10, 8:20-8:50.
6. Spectators: Spectators should not attend practice unless they stay in vehicle or have cleared, as result of extenuating or special circumstance, with Department Staff. Request for additional

spectator per participant must be sent in writing to [ian.mcleod@wintervillenc.com](mailto:ian.mcleod@wintervillenc.com) and must be received by 5:00 p.m. on business day prior to next practice.

## GAMES

1. Schedules: Games begin week of September 28<sup>th</sup>.
  - a. Due to limited field space and participant availability, make-ups may not always possible. Effort will be made to make-up as many games as possible.
2. Equipment: If a player needs to borrow equipment (i.e. batting helmet, bat, catcher's gear, glove, etc.) for use during game, please notify Department Staff. Equipment is assigned to individual for duration of game. Borrowed equipment shall not be shared during game. Once game is complete, borrowed equipment shall be returned to a Department Staff member. Equipment shall be cleaned and sanitized before being issued to another party.
3. Balls: Will be rotated as much as possible during game play.
  - a. Umpires should limit their contact with balls.
  - b. Catchers should retrieve foul balls and passed balls where possible.
4. Spectators: Note the following is in effect at least through Phase 2.5 of NC State Recovery. Number of spectators permitted may be modified in the future as result in a change of Phase or mass gathering limitations.
  - a. Spectators limited to 50 per field. While this number is higher than summer season, we ask that attendees be respectful of limits in place, which are a result of orders from the State.
  - b. Manner of spectator attendance and/or spectator numbers may be modified if spectator attendance becomes an issue.
5. Gathering Limitations: Only those permitted to participate in game setting will be allowed on/in scheduled game field. This is limited to: players, coaches, officials, and Department Staff (only if necessary).
6. **Batting Cages: Shall not be used by league teams on game nights.**
7. Plate Meeting: Attendance for plate meeting limited to 1 coach per team and 1 umpire.
8. Umpires: It is recommended that game officials wear face coverings during games, but not required.
9. Mound Visits: Limited to pitcher, catcher, and 1 coach. No team visits.
10. Warm-Up: Teams may warm-up on respective game field as shown below. No batting practice.
  - a. 6:00 p.m. Game Time: Infield warm-up home team and outfield warm-up visiting team  
5:10 – 5:30 p.m. Infield warm-up visiting team and outfield warm-up home team  
5:35 p.m. – 5:55 p.m.
  - b. 6:30 p.m. Game Time: Infield warm-up home team and outfield warm-up visiting team  
5:40 – 6:00 p.m. Infield warm-up visiting team and outfield warm-up home team  
6:05 p.m. – 6:25 p.m.
  - c. 7:00 p.m. Game Time: Infield warm-up home team and outfield warm-up visiting team  
6:10 – 6:30 p.m. Infield warm-up visiting team and outfield warm-up home team  
6:35 p.m. – 6:55 p.m.
  - d. Double header games: Warm-up occurs prior to first game as shown above. No warm-up in between games.

11. It is recommended that teams line up on their respective foul lines and tip hats as a sign of good sportsmanship upon conclusion of each game.
12. Due to roster sizes and participant schedules, as a result of playing during summer, teams will be allowed to borrow Winterville rostered player(s) from another team in the same age group, if necessary.
  - a. A team may not pitch a borrowed player.
  - b. Borrowed players may only come from opposing team for respective game.
  - c. A team may only borrow enough players to bring roster to minimum number required for game play, plus 1, for a total of (10) players.