



**RALSTON**  
NEBRASKA  
INDEPENDENCE CITY

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Ben Preis

**Guidelines for Ballfield Use**  
**City of Ralston**  
**May 23, 2020**

*Amended 6/2/2020*

1. The teams using the fields agree to follow Governor Rickett's guidelines for youth baseball and softball as listed below:

**Youth Sports Reopening Guidelines 5/11/2020**

The below guidelines lay out the planned reopening of certain youth sports. Additional guidelines for other sports will be provided as it is determined participation in those sports meet health and safety measures. Violation of these rules may mean a team is prohibited from practicing or playing games for the entire summer.

The below guidelines apply only to team sports. Individual sports such as golf and tennis (including doubles tennis) are not prohibited under any Directed Health Measure, however, participants must practice social distancing.

**Month of May**

- No Organized Team Sports games for youth and adults.
- No Team Organized Sports practices for youth and adults. This prohibition includes any practice, training or group exercise program organized by a coach of a sports team.
- Businesses and organizations that provide sports training AND that sell memberships to provide such training are allowed to offer sports training as long as they follow the same guidelines as fitness centers/clubs, gymnasiums, health clubs, and health spas. No team organized training is allowed.

**June 1**

- Schools are permitted to open weight rooms for use by all student athletes as long as they follow the same guidelines as fitness centers/clubs, gymnasiums, health clubs, and health spas.
- Team Organized practices for baseball and softball may begin unless circumstances dictate a change in date.
- Dugout use will not be allowed. Players' items should be lined up against the fence at least six (6) feet apart.
- Parents must remain in their cars or drop off and pick players up afterwards.

*The Spirit of  
Independence*

5500 South 77th Street  
Ralston, NE 68127-3896  
(402) 331-6677

Fax (402) 331-4553

E-mail: [cityhall@cityofralston.com](mailto:cityhall@cityofralston.com)

- Players should use their own gloves, helmets, and bats as much as possible.
- Coaches are responsible for ensuring social distancing is maintained between players as much as possible. This means additional spacing between players while playing catch, changing drills so that players remain spaced out, no congregating of players while waiting to bat.
- Players must bring their own water/beverage to consume during and after practice. No shared drinking fountains or coolers.
- Players must bring their own snacks to consume during and after practice. No shared/communal snacks.
- Coaches must sanitize shared equipment before and after each practice.
- Team organized practices for other sports may remain suspended.

#### June 18

- Baseball and softball games may begin unless circumstances dictate a change in date.
- Same guidelines apply as above for baseball and softball practices.
- Use of dugouts is permitted during games only. Bleachers located between the dugout and home plate should also be used to spread out players. Players should have designated spots to place their personal items. Coaches must designate an adult who is responsible for ensuring players are seated on the benches unless they are actively participating in the game.
- Players should use their own gloves, helmets, and bats as much as possible.
- Fan attendance is limited to household members of the players on the team. No use of bleachers for fans. Fans must bring their own chairs or stand. Fans should keep six (6) feet of social distancing between different household units. No fan seating or standing is allowed in the area from behind home plate to six (6) feet past the far end of each dugout.
- Teams to play next must be provided designated areas for player warm-ups that provide for necessary social distancing.
- Post-game handshakes or interaction between teams are prohibited.
- When games end, the leaving team must sanitize the dugout area. No post-game talks at the field are permitted. Fans and players must leave the playing area and return to their cars immediately after the game.

- The team to play next must remain in their designated warm up area until the prior team has finished sanitizing and is completely out of the dugout.
  - Fans for upcoming games must remain in their cars during player warm ups. They will be permitted to come to the field once the team they are there to watch enters the dugout area.
  - Restrooms must be cleaned and sanitized regularly while players and fans are present. Markings should be placed on the ground to ensure individuals waiting to use the restroom are spaced six (6) feet apart.
  - Players must bring their own water/beverage to consume during and after practices and games. No shared drinking fountains or coolers.
  - Players must bring their own snacks to consume during and after practice/games. No shared/communal snacks.
  - Coaches must sanitize shared equipment before and after each practice and game.
  - Concessions stands are not allowed to be open.
  - Team organized practices and games for other sports may remain suspended.]
2. The City of Ralston is not responsible for enforcing the Governor's guidelines for youth baseball and softball. Teams that use the field assume responsibility for enforcement and shall not hold the City liable for any participant or spectator who contracts COVID as a result of exposure at the City's fields.
  3. Each team using the field shall have an adult who is responsible for sanitizing the team's equipment, umpire gear, dugouts, bleachers, and restrooms.
  4. Each team shall appoint a responsible adult to enforce the guidelines of this document. The responsible adult shall have the following responsibilities:
    - a. The appointed responsible adults for each team shall conference prior to any scheduled game to coordinate on how the Governor's guidelines will be followed.
    - b. The responsible adult will ensure that the parent or guardian of each youth player and any associated adult has signed a City approved waiver before those youth or adults are allowed to use the field or any associated facility. The waiver must be delivered to City Hall prior to the participant using the City's facilities. Players and associated adults who do not sign a waiver should not be allowed to participate in any practice or game.
    - c. The responsible adult will obtain City approved waivers for each youth player and any associated adult from the visiting team before those youth or adults are allowed to use the field or any associated facility. The waivers

must be collected before the start of the game and delivered to City Hall as soon as possible after the game. Players and associated adults who do not sign a waiver should not be allowed to participate in any practice or game.

- d. If a youth player or associated adult is not following the guidelines, the team's responsible adult is granted the authority to order the youth player or adult to leave the park. If the youth player or adult does not comply, the responsible adult may contact the Ralston Police Department to report a violation of the State of Nebraska and/or Douglas County COVID guidelines.
  - e. The responsible adult shall ensure that these guidelines are posted in at least three conspicuous places around the field site.
5. If a youth player or associated adult who used the fields tests positive for COVID-19, the fields will be closed and only re-opened with the approval of the City of Ralston.
  6. Spectators will not be allowed to use the bleachers.
  7. The City restroom facilities will remain closed. Field users may provide portable restrooms for participants. The portable restrooms may not be used by spectators. The portable restrooms will be sanitized regularly.
  8. Teams that were formed by associations outside of Ralston may not use the fields as their home fields.
  9. The City reserves the right to close the fields at its discretion and cancel games.
  10. Failure to comply with any of the guidelines listed above shall be grounds for the City to ban any individual or team from using the facilities.