



SPORT: Softball

WIAA STAFF LEAD: BJ Kuntz

Committee: Softball Contingency Planning Committee Recommendations

Considering all recommendations by the General WIAA guidelines and the SMAC guidelines, the following are the specific guidelines for Softball:

The NFHS has determined that softball is a moderate risk sport (sports that involve close, sustained contact, but with protective equipment in place that may reduce the likelihood of respiratory particle transmission between participants OR intermittent close contact OR group sports OR sports that use equipment that can't be cleaned between participants. Softball could potentially be considered "Lower Risk" with appropriate cleaning of equipment and use of masks by participants.)

Special Considerations for the use of the following equipment:	Special Considerations for the use of the following components of the facility
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Batting Gloves ● Bats ● Gloves ● Hitting Tees ● Nets ● Whiffle Balls / Regular Balls ● Helmets ● Catchers Gear ● Individual Student Equipment / Personal Items ● Bucket / Coaches Bucket ● Cones, miscellaneous ● Scorebook 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Dugout ● Batting Cages ● Bullpen ● Bleachers ● Bathrooms ● Facility Prep equipment (rakes, shovels, 4 wheelers) ● Drinking / fountains / jugs ● Entry ● Ticket booth ● Score booth

NFHS Step 1 which aligns with Washington's Phase 2

- A player should not use a ball that others touch or in any manner. The same balls in each pod of 5 (the pod of 5 will use the same balls through the entire practice and not be shared with another pod); sanitize the balls if the pod rotates to a different coach, after each session and following the completion of the practice
- To ensure the softball is not being touched by multiple people, athletes can catch the ball with a glove and drop the ball to the ground (from glove).
- Ideal: 1 bucket of balls per player, 1 bat, 1 glove, etc. If you cannot provide, must sanitize between use.
- Clothing should be washed and cleaned after every workout.

- Individual drills requiring the use of athletic equipment are permissible, but the equipment should be cleaned prior to use by the next individual.

NFHS Step 2 which aligns with Washington's Phase 3 (modified softball practices may begin)

- Workouts should be conducted in "pods" of students with the same 5-10 (includes coaches and participants) always working out together.

NFHS Step 3 which aligns with Washington's Phase 4 (softball practices and competitions may begin)

- No pre-game and post-game handshakes/high-fives/fist bumps.
- All equipment should be cleaned and sanitized after setting up and before contest.
- Each team is responsible for its own hand sanitizer and its own med kit.
- Consider warm up pitches / arm warm up. Utilize bucket of balls as to limit contact between players.
- Recommend face coverings be worn during the captains meeting and athletes not competing.
- Only athletes will touch the balls.
- Eliminate throwing the ball around the horn.
- Sanitized back up ball(s) should be available and should be rotated in regularly (someone needs to be designated to sanitize the ball.) Keep sanitized and non-sanitized balls separated. Recommended to rotate balls at the end of each play.
- Players would need to use hand sanitizer before entering and when exiting the field
- Hydration stations may be utilized but must be cleaned after every practice or competition. Recommended that players provide their own hydration bottle and not share.
- Recommended to have teams gather in space other than a dugout if physical distancing is not able to be met in dugout. Team could spread out along the fence-line to maintain space.
- Limit "captain meeting" to 1-person school and umpire, maintaining physical distance.
- Entering / exiting field process recommended to stagger athletes to allow for physical distancing.

Considerations for Officials, Coaches, Other Personnel

- Schools should have umpires' information in order to track contacts (may be accessible through Arbitrator.)
- Umpires must come dressed to officiate; a locker room will not be provided.
- A separate bathroom should be provided for umpire when possible.
- Umpires are recommended to bring their own food and water.
- Umpires must be spaced 3-6 feet apart.
- Umpires will not be expected to monitor the physical distancing; each person is responsible.