



Back to the fields

USA Softball of WA is working with all the local districts in the state, and in conjunction with the Governors Orders, to provide you with a safe place to play. USA Softball LLC has a document that is posted on the Washington State Softball Website (www.washingtonasa.com). Governor Inslee has ordered the state to be opened in phases. We are putting together our “back to the fields” plan, within those constraints. We do realize, that these Phases may change based on the Governors future proclamations as well counties may be in different phases by order of the Governor.

(Proclamation 20-25’s Appendix June 04, 2020), See details on back of this sheet or page two.

Our path forward plan to play is as follows:

Phase 1:

What the Government Says: “Shelter in Place”

What USA Softball can do: Register our teams and umpires so we will be ready to go when released. Start reviewing open weekends throughout the state where invitational tournaments can be held during Phase 4

Phase 2:

What the Government Says: Limited non-essential travel, no more than 5 people can gather outside

What USA Softball can do: Continue to register teams; commit to schedule tournaments on open weekends, list invitational tournaments on tournamentusasoftball.com and continue to advertise tournaments. Teams can have small practices with five or less team members.

Phase 3:

What the Government Says: Allow gatherings of no more than 50 people, indoor recreational facilities at less than 50% capacity; resume non-essential travel

What USA Softball can do: Teams can practice. We can help ensure everyone has certificates of insurance and are ready to practice and play at the next phase. Complete Back to the Ballpark Guidelines for implementation in Phase 4. Register teams for invitational tournaments.

Phase 4:

What the Government Says: Resume public interactions with physical distancing

What USA Softball can do: Provide a safe place to play at every opportunity; facilitate invitational tournaments with physical distancing guidelines.

USA Softball of WA is currently looking 30 days out every weekend to determine which tournaments falls within the restricted phase time frames and cancelling those tournaments as necessary. Notifications should be sent for those cancellations via tournamentusasoftball.com. Please check the website frequently.

While most teams agreed to playing the state tournaments in the fall, comments indicated that the older age groups could be involved in school functions and weekends may be taken by school volleyball or other such sports. We do feel at this time that the State Championship Tournaments currently scheduled for early July, as they have been historically played, are cancelled this year.

We are, however, still working with the USA Softball of Washington Districts and our Parks and Recreational Colleagues throughout the state to determine which complexes can accommodate late summer tournaments. As you can imagine, some city and county complexes are stuck in “wait” mode as they understand what the government plans for moving forward.

Rick Hansen
USA Softball of Washington Commissioner

Lori Chafe
USA Softball of Washington Junior Olympic Commissioner

John Wright
USA Softball of Washington Umpire in Chief



Proclamation 20-25's Appendix, "Essential Critical Infrastructure Workers." (June 4, 2020)

This memorandum stands in the place of any omission from and supersedes any conflicting provision in Proclamation 20-25's Appendix, "Essential Critical Infrastructure Workers."

The sporting activities described in this memorandum may resume immediately if:

a) They can meet and maintain all requirements, including providing materials, schedules and equipment needed to comply;

b) They conduct only those activities that are allowed under their county's phase status. Professional sporting activities, in accordance with the attached requirements, may resume on June 5, 2020, in all counties.

General questions about how to comply with safety practices can be submitted to the state's Business Response Center at <https://coronavirus.wa.gov/how-you-can-help/covid-19-businessand-worker-inquiries>. All other violations related to Proclamation 20-25 can be submitted at <https://bit.ly/covidcompliance>.

Professional Sporting Activities, Indoor and Outdoor

RESTART COVID-19 REQUIREMENTS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

All professional sporting activities, including back office operations of up to 50 people, unless a county's then-current phase permits a greater number of people, full team practices, and spectator-less games and competitions, can resume on June 5, 2020, regardless of phase, if all of the following conditions are met:

- The organization follows both the league-wide and team-specific "return to play" safety plans.
- The league-wide plan is approved by the player's association or union representing players of the team.
- The team must report in advance to its respective county health department the dates when full team practices and spectator-less pre-season games will occur.

Outdoor Youth Team Sports and Outdoor Adult Recreational Team Sports, Excluding School-Connected or Administered Team Sports and Junior Hockey

RESTART COVID-19 REQUIREMENTS AND RECOMMENDATIONS •

In Phase 2, team practice can resume if

- a) players are limited to groups of five in separate parts of the field, separated by a buffer zone and
- b) practice can follow social distancing of a minimum of five feet between players with no contact. Each league, organization, or club must publish and follow a "return to play" safety plan. Parents and household members must not congregate on the sidelines during practice.

• In Phase 3, teams can resume playing games. Total gathering at any one game cannot exceed 50 individuals.

For sporting complexes with multiple fields or other playing surfaces, the 50- individual limit is counted on a per-field, not a per-complex basis.

- Nothing in these requirements should be read to obligate a facility owner to reopen a facility.