



Gallatin Valley Softball Association 2020 Summer League COVID-19 Opening Plan

Gallatin Valley Softball Association (GVSA) presents this comprehensive league opening plan, to reduce risk to players and teams during the COVID-19 pandemic. Adult recreational softball benefits the health and wellbeing of over 1200 residents in the Gallatin Valley, and GVSA believes it is critical to provide this important outlet to our community.

League play can resume under [Phase 2 guidelines](#), and GVSA is required to follow the safeguards for teams and players set forth by Montana, Gallatin City-County Health, USA Softball of Montana, and City of Bozeman Parks and Recreation. These guidelines reduce community spread of COVID-19. As GVSA is a community-run organization, care and protection of players, umpires, and volunteers is of the utmost importance and a shared responsibility of us all.

In past seasons, players and teams [assume liability and risk when playing](#); teams and players are assuming additional risk during the COVID-19 pandemic. If community spread of COVID-19 occurs as a result of playing softball, GVSA will not be held legally or financially responsible.

The guidelines below allow us to use the Bozeman Softball Complex (a City of Bozeman park) for practice and league. If any teams or players are unable to meet these guidelines, then do not participate in GVSA softball until you are either able to or COVID-19 restrictions have been lifted. We can take the responsible steps below to reduce COVID-19 spread, and play a sport we love, keep active, and be part of a community we value.

Some guidelines vary by phase, and teams and players are expected to follow the safeguards as outlined below. These guidelines are also posted both at the Complex and on GVsoftball.org. All these rules and regulations in this document are subject to change.

Safeguards for ALL phases

- Social distancing of 6' for all players and spectators
- Wash your hands with soap and water or use hand sanitizer, especially after touching frequently used items
- Avoid touching your face
- Sneeze or cough into a tissue, or the inside of your elbow
- Disinfect frequently used items and surfaces, as much as possible
- Face coverings are strongly urged by players and spectators
- People who feel sick, have a fever of 100.4 or greater, or have other COVID-19 symptoms should stay home

Phase 1

- Bozeman Softball Complex is open, and can be used for practices with 10 people or less
- Garbage bins are at the Complex - please help to keep your park clean!
- No restrooms are provided by the City of Bozeman

Phase 2

League play starts. Players are required to sign a waiver form before being able to play.

Softball Complex Rules

- Social distancing for players and spectators
- Bleachers will be removed, tell your fans to bring chairs if they want
- All food related garbage must be discarded in garbage cans only! This includes gum, sunflower seeds, and all tobacco products
- Please refrain from spitting

Game Play Rules

- Keep 6 feet distancing, no more than 3 people in a dugout at a time
- No team huddles
- Pre-game coin flip - umpire and captains to maintain 6 feet distancing. No handshakes.
- Teams are responsible for sanitizing shared equipment
- Teams are encouraged to sanitize the dugout, prior to the game
- Managers to keep a record of players names in case contact tracing is required (normal roster/scorebook is sufficient)
- Catchers remain at least 6' feet from batter, allowing ball to bounce on the black mat
- No stealing allowed in any league
- Umpire will not switch balls out or handle any softballs
- In Coed games, catchers will switch balls; extra ball stored against the back stop
- Pitchers or catchers take ball(s) into dugout between innings, bring out when in field
- At the start of each game, each team will be given one game ball.
- *Coed*: GVSA provides one Men's and one Women's ball and teams supply the other one; winner of coin toss picks which new ball to receive
- If a ball is hit out of play/not retrievable - batting team gives a sanitized ball to the pitcher
- Teams to provide sanitizing materials

Phase 3

Tournaments are allowed during Phase 3.

- Proper sanitation and social distancing guidelines are still recommended
- Softball Complex rules and game play rules remain the same as Phase 2

Important Dates

Registration Deadline: Tuesday May 26th, 2020

Tentative Schedule Posted: Tuesday, June 2nd, 2020

As with any year, the schedule can change more than 2 weeks out. Please check your online schedule often. If any changes are made less than 2 weeks, captains will be notified. Note: if the start date is delayed due to Montana still being in Phase 1, games will be deleted and fees updated. Note for this season - game times will be staggered, so be sure to double check your start time as they may be different than past years.

Tentative Season Start: Monday June 8th, 2020

If the State of Montana and Gallatin County have not entered Phase 2 by June 8th, this date will get pushed back one week until Phase 2 has arrived. The schedule will run from June 8th until the end of the season, and if we have to delay a week, those week's games will simply get deleted. Last day of the regular season for Men's/Womens is July 23rd, for Coed will be July 30th. There are ot plans to change District and State tournaments at this time, and any decision will be evaluated closer to that date.

Payment Deadline: TBA

Once a start date is set, we will announce the prorated fees.. Payment must be received in full before the first day of the season. A payment drop off time at the softball complex will be announced once an official start date is set. The online credit card payment fee will be waived this year, and teams are encouraged to pay online or mail in a check.

Tentative Rosters Due: week of June 29th

There will be a special roster form and liability waiver due this year. These rosters will be due at the start of the season, but we will be allowing teams to add/drop names at any time until the due date. No players will be allowed to play in any game until they have signed either a roster form (for any team) or an individual liability form.