



Uxbridge Softball Association

PO Box 441

N. Uxbridge, MA 01538

<http://www.uxbridgesoftball.com>

<https://www.facebook.com/UxbridgeSoftballAssociation>

2020 Summer Ball - Update (Updated 6/4/20)

All of the below information is contingent on it being deemed safe to open the fields for play. This involves the [Uxbridge BOH](#), [Massachusetts Governor](#) and [USA Softball](#). We will look to and follow the guidance of ALL of these governing bodies as we prepare to make accommodations for safe play. The Uxbridge Softball Association plans to follow this framework to get the players back on the fields.

This will be like no other year of softball, and I'll ask you to bear with us and remember that our first priority is the **safety of the girls, coaches, and umpires.**

- On June 1, 2020, Governor Baker issued [COVID-19 Order No. 35](#), clarifying the progression of the Commonwealth's phased workplace re-opening plan and authorizing certain re-opening preparations at Phase II workplaces. COVID-19 Order No. 35 provides the following framework for amateur organized sports activities and programs during Phase II:
 - **Outdoor** athletic facilities shall be open and available for organized youth and adult sports activities
 - **Group size** is limited. Programs must separate participants into groups of no more than 10 participants, including coaches and staff. Larger playing areas and surfaces, such as athletic fields, may be used by more than one group of 10 at one time, provided that adequate social distance and group separation can be maintained. To ensure group separation, groups must be spaced at least 20 feet apart while sharing a playing surface or field.
 - **Inter-team games, scrimmages, and tournaments** shall not be permitted for any organized sports activities.
 - **Contact sports** (e.g., basketball, football, baseball/Softball, soccer, field hockey, lacrosse, hockey and other sports where ordinary play puts players in direct contact or close proximity) must limit activities exclusively to no-contact drills and practices.

The guidelines in this document are designed to provide a safe environment for youth softball and adapted directly from Governor Baker's re-opening plan.

- **Spectators will be limited to ensure social distancing at the fields.** Spectators will be limited to one adult chaperone per athlete. Each field will have a designated area for spectators, a map will be posted at the snack shack. If social distancing is not possible spectators may be asked to wait in their vehicles until practice is completed. All spectators must wear face coverings.
- A coach or designee is responsible for maintaining social distance among players, coaches and spectators. Please support your coaches, if a player or spectator is unable to follow social distancing guidelines they will not be able to participate.
- **Players will wear face covering to and from the field.** Participants may remove face coverings while participating in practice and drills, provided they are able to maintain at least 6 feet of distance from all other persons present. Face coverings should otherwise be worn by coaches, players, spectators in accordance with MA guidelines to prevent against the transmission of COVID-19 throughout the duration of the activity.
- The Softball Association **will not** be opening bathrooms at Whitin during Phase 2.
- **Hand sanitizer** will be available at each field. **Players and coaches must achieve proper hand hygiene at the beginning and end of all activities**, by using an alcohol-based hand sanitizer.



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- Players should arrive dressed for practice and leave immediately after practice: no recreational play or loitering is allowed. Teams completing practice should not stay to watch other practices after their practice session.
- **Each player will have a designated area along the fence outside the dugout for their equipment**, drinks and belongings. Circles or lines will be painted to help with social distancing. Players cannot use the dugouts, they can only pass through on the way to the on deck circle.
- **No shared food or drink** for participants or spectators. No seeds, gum or any food that encourages spitting will be permitted.
- **Personal equipment may not be shared** and must be dedicated to an individual player throughout the season. Personal equipment includes all gear that is worn by players (e.g., gloves, helmets, masks, footwear, pads, bats etc.).
- Coaches will minimize sharing of other equipment, and clean and disinfect all shared equipment at the end of a practice session. **At this time we believe softballs are the only shared equipment we will use, extra balls will be available, and will be disinfected and rotated** throughout practices and eventually games. If needed, the softball association will purchase extra catchers gear.
- **Practices will be limited to 60 minutes since there are no bathrooms**, the softball board may increase practice length as the season progresses to 90 minutes.
- Players, organizers, spectators, volunteers and facility employees in high risk categories should not participate or attend organized sport activities. List of high-risk categories available here: <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/need-extra-precautions/people-at-higher-risk.html>
- To participate or attend, players, coaches and spectators must show no signs or symptoms of COVID-19 for 14 days. Current list of symptoms is available here: <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/symptoms-testing/symptoms.html>
- If any individual develops symptoms of COVID-19 during the activity, they should promptly inform coaches and will be removed from the activity and instructed to return home.

Plans by Division

Jr Pee Wee – Due to the amount of parents required to run a successful season, we will hold off starting this division until **Phase 3**. Practices will be limited to an hour.

Pee Wee Divisions, Junior, Intermediate and Advanced Divisions - Practices for play in the **Twin Valley League** can begin in Phase 2 (currently no earlier than June 8). **This is a travel league.**

How can I help prepare my player?

Please remind your player about social distancing. The urge to hug friends will be strong, and we need your help to set expectations with girls about social distancing. In person smiles, cheers and waves will need to be enough for now.

What happens if we are locked down or restricted after practices and games have begun? - Once the USA has purchased uniforms, Uxbridge Softball will only be in a position to provide a credit toward next spring. Refunds will not be available after uniforms have been purchased.



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What days of the week do we play/practice?

Our divisions and days of the week have been updated with the Summer TVL information

JR. PEE WEE DIVISION - (Pre K4 & K, Ages 4 & 5)

In town = Wed, Sat

PEE WEE DIVISION - (Grades 1 & 2, Ages 6 - 8)

TVL Games = Thursday

JUNIOR DIVISION - (Ages 10 and under)

TVL Games = Mon/Wed

INTERMEDIATE DIVISION - (Ages 12 and under)

TVL Games = Tues/Thurs

ADVANCED DIVISION - (Ages 14 and under)

TVL Games = Mon/Wed

This division is strictly instructional. Girls will be learning the basic fundamentals of softball mainly thru drills. Small scrimmages will also be played between teams.

Still an instructional program with introduction to real game play. Girls will catch, pitch and have 3 outs. The coaches will assist pitching when necessary. An 11inch safety ball is used and the games last 6 innings or 1½ hours.

Players pitch and catch at this level. Games last 6 innings or 1.5 hours. Umpires will be introduced and balls and strikes will be called. *as long as your daughter is 10 years old for one day in 2020 she can play in this division*

Players pitch and catch the entire game. They play with modified High School rules. The games last 6 innings. Playoffs are held at the end of the season. *as long as your daughter is 12 years old for one day in 2020 she can play in this division*

Players participate in the Blackstone Valley league with full High School rules. This age group plays against neighboring towns. *as long as your daughter is 14 years old for one day in 2020 she can play in this division*

Note: Days of the weeks are based on 2020 schedule and could change at the coaches discretion

Wishing you all good health.

Sincerely,

Uxbridge Softball Board