



Updated 4/15/2021

## **2021 Team Softball Return to Activity Guidelines**

### Screening Process

- All Return to Activity (RTA) pre-event screening protocols must be followed. Protocols may be found at <https://www.sonj.org/sports/sonj-return-to-activity-guidelines/>. The screening process includes athletes, coaches, volunteers and any family members/caregivers that remain for the duration of practice.
- Athletes must be registered and have completed the COVID Code of Conduct waiver prior to the start of training
- Volunteer certifications are required prior to the start of training
  - Coaches (age 18+) – Updated Class A Form/Background Screen, Protective Behaviors, Concussion and COVID Code of Conduct
  - Volunteers (age 14+) – Updated Class B Form and COVID Code of Conduct

### Venue

- All programs must adhere to venue capacity rules and regulations. As such, spectators may be asked to leave venues if capacity limits are met and are expected to comply. Current guidance – no more than **fifty (50)** total individuals
  - 50 total all-inclusive to athletes, coaches, volunteers
  - Spectators must remain outside of the field parameters
- Confirm with venue regarding additional restrictions
- Locker rooms may not be available based on venue guidelines – check with venue prior to training

### Training Guidance/Equipment

- All practice structure must align with the current Special Olympics New Jersey RTA guidelines
- Athletes can practice or compete no more than one (1) time per week
- While at the venue, ensure all participants practice social distancing and maximum group number limitations as outlined in the current RTA plan
  - Social distance when moving from one station to the next, if applicable
- Mask Compliance – Masks must be worn at all times by all participants
  - Includes athletes, coaches, volunteers, and spectators
  - Mask is required by athletes during activity
  - Mask may be removed for hydrating or brief medical reasons only



## **2021 Team Softball Return to Activity Guidelines (cont.)**

- The sharing of equipment is not recommended, however:
  - If you must share a helmet, each athlete must wear a hat, skullcap, or bandanna underneath. The outside of the helmet must be sanitized in between uses
  - Shared catcher's equipment must be sanitized after each use
  - Sanitize shared bats to the best of your ability without impacting the grip
  - All athletes must have their own glove
- Sanitizing Equipment – Equipment must be sanitized prior to and following each training session.
  - Check with venue regarding sanitizing protocols
  - PPE equipment is available in the Coach Tool Kit (available by SONJ)

### Volunteers/Spectators

- Softball programs are encouraged to utilize only the necessary number of volunteers at practice
  - Volunteers are required to be pre-registered through Special Olympics New Jersey
  - Volunteers must always wear a mask and maintain social distancing protocols
  - Volunteers are counted as part of the total number of individuals allowed at a venue
- Spectators are discouraged to attend training/practices
  - Spectators must always wear a mask and maintain social distancing protocols
  - Spectators are counted as part of the total number of individuals allowed at a venue