



Athletic Field Reservation Requirements for Caroline County

The following field rental requirements are designed to help keep participants and members of our community safe during the COVID-19 pandemic.

All organizations and private groups must certify their intent to meet these requirements at the point of field or facility reservations online via carolinerecreation.org or in person at office headquarters at 107 South 4th Street, Denton, MD 21629

Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) Guidelines and Screening:

- Updated COVID-19 guidance from the CDC can be found at <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-nCoV/index.html>.
- Be vigilant in preventing the spread of the COVID-19 virus by following CDC guidelines.
- Stay home if you are experiencing signs or symptoms of COVID-19, or if you have been exposed to someone who has had signs or symptoms of COVID-19. The CDC maintains a list of COVID-19 symptoms at the link above.
- Players, coaches and family members should check their temperature prior to arriving at any Caroline County field. If your temperature is 100.4 degrees or higher, you are not allowed to participate in an activity on a Caroline County athletic field for a minimum of 14 days.
- Field users are responsible for screening all players, coaches and spectators each day and should keep records of screening for 14 days.
- Caroline County Recreation and Parks (CCRP) staff on site will be screened each day they report to work.
- If you are immunocompromised, the best way to prevent COVID-19 is to avoid being exposed to the virus. CCRP strongly urges you to evaluate the risk of participating in any activity on our fields.

Facility / Field Rules

Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) / Masks

- On the Field of Play: Participants, officials and umpires have the *option* to wear a mask / face covering at their discretion, *unless the mask creates a safety concern for themselves*.
- Off the Field of Play: Participants, officials, staff and spectators are not required to wear masks / face coverings if they maintain social distancing of at least six feet. Masks should be worn in high-traffic areas like concessions where social distancing is more challenging.

Cleaning / Disinfecting

- Players, coaches, administrators, etc. should not share water, towels or other personal or playing equipment (bats, gloves, etc.).
- Centralized hydration stations are not permitted on CCRP fields.
- Field entry and exit gates should remain open to minimize touch points.
- Portable toilets provided by the League must include hand sanitizer *and* a washing station for each portable toilet location. Practice proper hand hygiene after using toilets.

Social Distancing

- Anyone entering CCRP fields, including participants, spectators, umpires and staff, are expected to follow social distancing guidelines from the CDC.
- Congregating is not permitted. Groupings should be limited to single-family units.

- Maintain six-foot spacing when walking to and from the field, and in high-traffic areas (restrooms, concession stands, etc.)
- No handshakes, high fives, fist bumps or other similar person-to-person contact is permitted before, during or after activity.

Spectators

- Spectators for youth sport events are limited to parents and guardians of youth athletes.
- The number of spectators should be limited based on gathering size restrictions in the current phase of recovery. Gathering size restrictions will be enforced for each field and may vary in different periods of the COVID response.
- Spectators should arrive no earlier than the scheduled game time.
- Spectators may watch from behind home plate, down foul lines and beyond outfield fence. Bleachers are closed and spectators should bring their own chairs.
- After games are over, spectators should promptly leave. Teams should eliminate post-game meetings.

Dugouts

- Bench / dugout areas should be expanded to allow participants to appropriately distance themselves.
- Spectators are not permitted in bench / dugout areas.

Practice

- A maximum of 15 people are allowed per ½ field (e.g., thirteen players and two coaches; twelve players and three coaches). Baseball / softball fields can be divided by outfield and infield.
- Each player should be assigned a “station” for their equipment (bag, water bottle, etc.) and breaks. These assigned spaces should be at least six feet apart.

Communication

- Field users must communicate the new field rental guidelines to players, coaches and spectators prior to field usage (via virtual meeting or email).
- All other field use rules apply.
- Field users must certify that they will adhere to these COVID-19 Field Use Guidelines in the Assumption of Risk and Waiver of Liability that must accompany all field reservations forms.
- To minimize physical communication during activity, field users should use electronic communication where possible.

Team Recommendations

- Parents / guardians should bring their own player(s) to the activity instead of carpooling.
- Players and coaches should practice proper hand hygiene (handwashing or hand sanitizer) before and after participation.
- Each player should utilize their own equipment, which should be disinfected before and after each activity, as well as during activities when possible.
- Players should label their equipment with their name.
- Field users should provide arrival times for team warmups.
- Players and coaches should report to the field dressed and ready to participate.
- Field users should have sanitizing options available for players and coaches. This may include, but is not limited to:
 - Hand sanitizer
 - Disinfectant wipes

- Upon returning home, players and coaches should remove and launder clothes and shower.

Please Note: Failure to abide by Caroline County Recreation & Parks COVID-19 Field Reservation Guidelines may result in suspension or termination of the event and may also include forfeiture of future permits.