



8/4/21

ESBA Policy Regarding COVID19 – Fall 2021

The safety and well-being of all our participants is always of paramount concern to ESBA. As it relates to COVID-19, we must walk a fine line between balancing privacy rights of those affected and making sure our membership is aware of positive cases in our community so that proper health and safety decisions can be made. Going forward, our policy regarding positive tests at ESBA, be it a player, coach or parent, or another member of household will be as follows:

1. Once a coach is aware of a positive test on their team (player, coach, parent, other guardian, or other member of household), the head coach shall immediately notify their team and a member of the ESBA Board of Directors. ESBA members should proactively communicate with their coach in letting them know about a positive case as soon as possible.
2. ESBA Board of Directors will share the details of the case with all current ESBA Head Coaches while maintaining strict confidentiality (unless permissions has been given to use names). ESBA will provide as much detail as possible regarding the case so that those that may have had contact with the affected person can make informed decisions about their personal situation. Head coaches will then share this information with their teams.
3. ESBA will require those that may be affected to follow relevant CDC/GA Dept of Health/Cobb Public Health guidelines regarding possible quarantine and isolation.
4. If a coach or player tests positive, ESBA will also utilize current CDC/GA Dept of Health/Cobb Public Health guidelines to determine if, and for how long a team should refrain from organized team activities. ESBA will allow the team to continue their season once it is clear per CDC/GA Dept of Health/Cobb Public Health guidelines that there is no further health risk. We will attempt to make up all games as per rainout policy, but it is possible the season will end with teams having played an uneven number of games.
5. If you have been advised to quarantine by any other entity, please do not return to East Side until you have satisfied the requirements as laid out by GA Dept of Health. (<https://dph.georgia.gov/contact>). ESBA will follow the guidance of the Cobb County 2021-2022 Public Health Protocols specifically as it relates to those identified as close contacts thru tracing. As of 8.23.21, If a child or coach has been identified as a close contact, they may continue to participate in ESBA activities as follows:
 - a. If asymptomatic, they may continue to attend ESBA activities after a 3 day quarantine from date of contact, but must be masked for next 7 days during ESBA activities.
 - b. If symptomatic, they must quarantine as per the instructions in their close contact letter

Here are some links to relevant guidance on these issues:

1. When can I be around others after testing positive for COVID19?
 - a. <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/if-you-are-sick/end-home-isolation.html>
2. When to Quarantine or Isolate?
 - a. <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/if-you-are-sick/quarantine.html>
3. What if I have had close contact to someone with COVID19?
 - a. <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/php/public-health-recommendations.html>
 - b. <https://dph.georgia.gov/contact>
4. What is considered "close contact"?
 - a. <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/php/contact-tracing/contact-tracing-plan/appendix.html#contact>

ESBA is committed to keeping our players, coaches, and parents as safe as possible. To that end, East Side encourages all on field coaches to wear a mask during practices and games. In addition, each team should have a parent or coach responsible for checking player and coach temperatures prior to practices or games. Any player/coach with a fever over 100.4 should be sent home.

As we all know, a 4th wave is currently hitting GA due to the Delta Variant. If cases continue to climb, then all options will be on the table, including possible shutting down the season. **If over half the regular season has been played, there will not be any refunds.**

Thank you in advance for your compliance with the above policy. Please also do not forget about our COVID policy regarding practices and games at East Side which is detailed out on the next few pages. It is vitally important that we comply with these policies to help limit the spread of COVID19 in our community.

ESBA Board of Directors

Policy for ESBA Team Practices:

1. All participants, coaches, and spectators must maintain 6-foot distancing while at the park
2. Any person exhibiting COVID or Flu like symptoms is prohibited from attending ESBA events (parents should take player temperature prior to arrival at the ballpark. If over 100.4, then child must not attend practice)
3. Players and coaches are encouraged to wear PPE items of their choice
4. Teams will refrain from high fives, handshakes, elbow bumps, group celebrations etc..
5. Coaches will limit team meeting but to the extent not possible, players and coaches will maintain social distancing during these meetings
6. Social distancing rules apply in dugouts as well
7. Players will not share equipment (Helmets, bats, catcher gear)
8. Arriving teams and departing teams should maintain proper social distancing in the event of overlap
9. Player equipment should be spaced at least 6 feet apart along the fence line
10. Field use will be limited to a maximum of 50 people per State guidelines
11. Each team will dedicate a parent or coach to monitor these guidelines during team practice. This same person should also be in charge of temperature checks.

12. Players and parents are highly encouraged to bring hand sanitizer and utilize it before and after practice
13. Dugouts: Do not set up dugouts on the playing field, including practices and scrimmages.

Policy for ESBA Games:

The policies below apply to any ESBA game or scrimmage:

1. All participants, coaches, and spectators must maintain 6-foot distancing while at the park
2. Any person exhibiting COVID or Flu like symptoms is prohibited from attending ESBA events. Additionally, any child or coach with a fever in excess of 100.4 should be sent home.
3. Players and coaches are highly encouraged to wear PPE items of their choice
4. Teams will refrain from high fives, handshakes, elbow bumps, group celebrations etc..
5. Coaches will limit team meeting but to the extent not possible, players and coaches will maintain social distancing during these meetings
6. Dugouts can be utilized, if available, but social distancing still applies. As such, players will need to spread out outside the dugouts if dugouts do not allow for proper social distancing
7. Players will not share Helmets and Bats. Catcher's gear and pitcher masks may be shared game to game if they have been thoroughly sanitized between games.
8. Team snacks are allowed as long as players social distance while eating.
9. Arriving teams and departing teams should maintain proper social distancing
10. Field use will be limited to a maximum of 50 people per State guidelines (This would include umpires and coaches)
11. It is understood that social distancing cannot be enforced 100% during gameplay (i.e. catcher/batter, 1B/runner). Coaches may call time if contact occurs between players on the field to provide disinfectant.
12. Players and parents are highly encouraged to bring hand sanitizer and utilize it before and after practice
13. Home Plate meeting will be a no touch meeting with proper social distancing
14. Teams should employ alternative end of game acknowledgement to other teams such as tipping of the hat or yelling good game
15. Umpires: Do not get closer than 6' to an umpire, including if appealing any call. Umpires should not handle baseballs, defensive team handles baseballs.

Gameplay Changes

1. **Sub Policy** – In case of short roster, no subs from other teams. Opponent team (last batted) will fill outfield defensive positions. If fewer than 6 players, opposing team may fill infield positions but may not pitch. Tournament still requires 6 players to play (and same new rule about filling outfield positions).

Other League Changes

1. **Evals** – We will hold evals this fall, but social distancing rules must apply.
2. **Concessions** – Concessions will be open this fall. Concessions will be **credit** only this season, and all concession workers must wear a mask and gloves AT ALL TIMES while in the concession

booth. Additionally, concession workers must have temperature checked prior to work and must go home if over 100.4.