

Gurnee Youth Baseball Safety Guidelines

Revised: April 17, 2016



1. Purpose

Gurnee Youth Baseball, Inc. ("GYB") has created Safety Guidelines in accordance with its goal of ensuring that best efforts are implemented for the safety of its participants. This plan has been created to meet the specific needs of GYB, its facilities and operations. Safety Guidelines will be reviewed by the Safety Committee on an annual basis for amendments and modifications where necessary. Safety Guidelines shall be posted publicly on the GYB website and distributed to the Board of Directors ("BOD"), all Managers and Coaches. Printed copies shall be made available in the concession stand, equipment shed, umpire shed and in the secured equipment boxes at each American Legion field.

2. Conflicts

In the event of any conflict between these Safety Guidelines and the Field and Playing Rules these Safety Guidelines shall control.

3. Field and Facilities Safety

- a. Alcohol is not permitted on the grounds of GYB (American Legion Fields). Anyone violating this policy is subject to disciplinary action by the GYB BOD.
- b. Dogs and other pets are not permitted on the grounds of GYB (American Legion Fields). Individuals in violation of this policy will be asked to leave the premises. Repeat violators are subject to disciplinary action by the GYB BOD.
- c. Tobacco of any type is prohibited on the grounds of GYB (American Legion Fields). Individuals in violation of this policy will be asked to extinguish and/or properly discard their tobacco materials or leave the GYB grounds. Repeat violators are subject to disciplinary action by the GYB BOD.
- d. Firearms are prohibited on the grounds of GYB (American Legion Fields). The carrying of concealed weapons or firearms is prohibited on the grounds of GYB (American Legion Fields). Repeat violators are subject to disciplinary action by the GYB BOD.
- e. Teams are only to practice on fields and other facilities approved by GYB.
- f. Fields
 - i. Parents and spectators are not allowed to enter the field of play unless they are part of the post or pre-game set up team.
 - ii. Safety representatives, parents or other medical personnel may enter the field of play when called or needed to attend to a medical issue.
 - iii. Only the approved Managers and Coaches are allowed in the dugout with the team players. If necessary, at the Mustang league and below, an approved "team parent" is also allowed in the dugout to help maintain control of the players.
- g. Traffic and Parking
 - i. GYB shall designate parking areas and post appropriate signage where needed at the American Legion Fields.
 - ii. Speed limits will be posted for roadways designated for traffic within the American Legion Fields.
- h. Climbing on or over fences is prohibited.
- i. Standing on dugout benches is prohibited.
- j. Sitting on the backrest of dugout benches is prohibited.

4. Background Screening

- a. Background screening is required each year for all GYB volunteers that may have access to and interact with players. Individuals required for background screening may include but is not limited to board members, coaches, assistant coaches and team parents.
- b. GYB volunteers requiring background screening shall complete the screening application or forms as provided and established by GYB.
- c. Individuals shall not be permitted to participate in activities involving players until having passed background screening.
- d. GYB shall maintain a list of volunteers approved by GYB.

5. Contacts

- a. Emergency
 - i. Gurnee Police Department / Fire Department / EMS: 911
 - ii. Poison Control Center: 1-800-222-1222
- b. Non-Emergency
 - i. Gurnee Police Department Non-Emergency: 1-847-599-7000

6. Emergency Procedures

Professional medical help should be called for individuals who have incurred serious injury.

- a. Dial 911.
- b. Provide the necessary information to the emergency dispatcher, including location:
 - i. American Legion Baseball Fields, Field #____
Intersection of Grand Avenue and Milwaukee Avenue in Gurnee
 - ii. O'Plaine Community Park, East Field or West Field
O'Plaine Road and Russell Avenue in Gurnee
- c. GYB maintains an Automatic External Defibrillator (AED) at the American Legion Fields in the concession stand. The AED is to be used to supplement EMS services at times when the concession stand is open and a trained board member is available to operate the device.

7. Reporting of Injuries

All injuries and accidents shall be reported to the President of GYB.

8. Concession Stand Operations

- a. GYB shall confirm to Lake County Health Department Food Safety Guidelines.
- b. Lake County Health Department Food Safety Guidelines will be posted at the concession stand.

9. Safety Training

- a. GYB will facilitate annual CPR training at a nominal cost for its BOD, managers, coaches, umpires and other interested parties.
- b. GYB will facilitate Managers/Coaches safety training covering:
 - i. Safety guidelines covered in the Safety Guidelines and Field and Playing Rules
 - ii. Planning and running a practice
 - iii. Planning and running a game
- c. The Manager (Head Coach) and at least one Assistant Coach of record for each team must attend safety training during the current year.

10. Safety Equipment

- a. First Aid Supplies
 - i. At the American Legion Fields, a First Aid kit shall be maintained in the concession stand, in the umpire shed, and in the equipment lock box at each field.
 - ii. First Aid kits at the American Legion Fields shall be maintained by the Safety Officer.
 - iii. Each team shall be supplied with a First-Aid kit. Coaches shall maintain the team's First Aid kits and have them at all practices and games. All team First Aid kits shall be returned to the Safety Officer at the end of each season.
 - iv. Each team shall be provided with ice packs at the beginning of each season. Coaches shall maintain a supply of ice packs and have them at all practices and games. Additional ice packs may be obtained as needed from the Safety Officer.
- b. Lightning Detector
 - i. A lightning detector shall be maintained and operated at the American Legion Fields.

11. Player Safety

- a. Players may not participate in any game or practice while wearing a cast.
- b. All male players must wear a protective cup.
- c. Metal cleats or spikes are prohibited at the Bronco level and below.
- d. All catchers must wear appropriate catcher's equipment during all games and practices.
- e. No player may warm-up a pitcher without wearing a catcher's mask.
- f. Managers/Coaches, BOD and umpires shall be observant of any player demonstrating a lack of alertness during any game play. During such situations, the concern should be brought to the attention of the player's Manager, and players at risk of injury for lack of focus on game play should be removed from the field.

12. Playing Conditions Safety

Suspending play due to weather related conditions or visibility is a safety concern taken very serious by GYB. For all situations of playing condition safety, GYB umpires, managers, coaches, and BOD shall err on the side of caution and suspend play until safe conditions are present. Coaches are responsible for following playing condition safety guidelines during practices.

a. Lightning

- i. At the first observance of threatening skies, close monitoring of conditions shall begin by the managers, coaches, umpires, and BOD. Play shall be suspended when:
 1. Lightning detector indicates lightning within a 10 mile range. The lightning detector takes precedence over any other means of determining lightning distance.
 2. Thunder is heard, with or without lightning.
 3. Cloud-to-ground, cloud-to-cloud or distant lightning is observed.
- ii. BOD and umpires shall work together. However, either may suspend a game for lightning as one may not have seen the lightning noticed by the other. At the American Legion Fields, or any other facility with multiple games being played, all games at the location shall be suspended for lightning regardless of which field of play or which umpire or BOD observed lightning.
- iii. During a suspension due to lightning, players, coaches, umpires and spectators shall move to a safe area inside cars or buildings.
 1. No one is allowed to remain in a dugout.
 2. Players, coaches, umpires and spectators must remain inside until an all clear signal is issued for return to the fields.
 3. League officials may move to the concession stand or umpire shed to monitor the lightning detector or watch the weather for conditions listed below.
- iv. Return to the fields shall not occur until thirty (30) minutes after the latest of:
 1. The lightning detector last indicated lightning within a 6-10 mile range.
 2. The last cloud-to-ground, cloud-to-cloud, or distant lightning was observed.
- v. Umpires are in control of the game only after an all clear signal is issued for return to the fields, and the decision to resume play ultimately rests with them.

b. Weather Related Conditions

- i. Umpires, Managers/Coaches and BOD must be observant of rain, winds, temperature and other playing conditions.
- ii. The Plate Umpire may call or suspend game play if, in their opinion, the conditions as a result of weather present unsafe conditions and that the conditions will not improve to allow safe play. Plate Umpires may consult with base umpires, BOD, and coaches about calling a game due to weather related conditions.
- iii. If a BOD is present and they feel it is unsafe to continue a game due to weather related conditions, they are to discuss this with the Plate Umpire.

c. Darkness

- i. Games should be called for darkness when it is deemed unsafe for play to continue. Plate Umpires may consult with base umpires, BOD, and coaches about calling a game for darkness.
- ii. If a BOD is present and they feel it is unsafe to continue a game due to darkness, they are to discuss this with the Plate Umpire.

13. Batting Safety

Swinging bats outside of the batter's box, on-deck cages, or designated on-deck circle is prohibited unless under Managers/Coaches supervision as outlined below.

a. Batting Cages

- i. Managers, Coaches and BOD are to inspect all batting cages prior to use to ensure there are no holes, openings, or other safety considerations with the cages.
- ii. Only Managers or Coaches may soft-toss to batters, pitch to batters, or place balls on batting tees for batters.
- iii. Only one player is allowed in the cage while batting practice is in progress and the player must wear a baseball batting helmet while batting.
- iv. Managers/Coaches shall stay behind the pitcher's screen when pitching to batters.
- v. No individual shall enter the cage during a player's batting practice.
- vi. No individual shall lean on the cage or cage netting. Managers/Coaches must ensure that others are standing away from cages prior to throwing pitches. This is extremely important for netted cages.
- vii. GYB shall post batting cage safety rules derived from these guidelines at all American Legion Fields batting cages.

b. Hitting Nets

- i. Use of hitting nets, pop-up or other, are subject to GYB Safety Guidelines.
- ii. Nets are only allowed within the fair territory of playing fields.
- iii. GYB provided nets may only be used in approved locations and are not allowed for use in game day warm-ups.
- iv. Players hitting into nets must wear a baseball batting helmet.
- v. Only Managers/Coaches may soft-toss to batters or place balls on batting tees for batters.
- vi. Only safety balls or wiffle balls are allowed with the use of non-GYB provided hitting nets.
- vii. Managers/Coaches shall maintain at least 10-feet between any batter and any other players or individuals.

c. Hitting Sticks

- i. Use of hitting sticks for batting practice is allowed subject to GYB Safety Guidelines.
- ii. The use of hitting sticks is allowed only within the fair territory of playing fields.
- iii. Players hitting must wear a baseball batting helmet.
- iv. Only Managers/Coaches may use hitting sticks with batters.
- v. Managers/Coaches shall maintain at least 10-feet between any batter and any other players or individuals.

d. Batting Warm-ups

- i. Batting warm-ups outside of a batting cage are subject to GYB Safety Guidelines.
- ii. Batting warm-ups outside of a batting cage are allowed only within the fair territory of playing fields.
- iii. Players hitting must wear a baseball batting helmet.
- iv. Only Managers/Coaches may soft-toss to batters, pitch to batters, or place balls on batting tees for batters.
- v. Only safety balls or wiffle balls are allowed for warm-ups outside of a batting cage or with the use of non-GYB provided hitting nets.
- vi. Managers/Coaches shall maintain at least 10-feet between any batter and any other players or individuals.
- vii. Hitting into any fencing is prohibited.