



WEST BEND-MALLARD COMMUNITY SCHOOL DISTRICT



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WOLVERINES

May 29, 2020

Dear West Bend-Mallard Softball & Baseball Athletes, Families, and Fans

As many of you know, Governor Reynolds announced last week that Iowa high schools would be able to start summer baseball and softball practice June 1. Our first games are scheduled for June 15. We ask for your patience as we prepare and distribute information to our athletes, coaches, spectators, and other game management personnel.

Iowa will be one of the first states in the country to resume competitive high school sports this summer. We may be one of the first competitive team sports to play in any high school, college, and professional associations nationwide. The entire country will be watching Iowa starting June 15. Therefore, it is imperative that we successfully navigate competitive team sports during the pandemic. If we are not successful, it could mean we miss out on fall and/or winter sports later this year.

As we have seen with many local stores and businesses, we must be adaptable to the COVID-19 mitigation strategies schools have implemented. Some schools may ban the use of bleachers, some may not charge admission or ask for a free will donation to offset costs, and some may require players' and spectators' temperature to be taken before entering their complex. There may be other mitigation strategies not mentioned here as well.

Regardless of the requirements, we ask that we all remain respectful and compliant when we visit area schools. The school administrators who are developing these strategies are doing their best and working hard to create a safe and healthy environment for all. In some cases, they may be doing what their local county health department requires.

We are fortunate to have an opportunity to play baseball and softball this summer, and our fans are fortunate to be able to attend. Let's show the rest of the world that this can be done safely and that we can be respectful to our neighboring schools when visiting them.

Sincerely,

Amanda Schmidt, Superintendent

Softball and Baseball Athletes and Parents:

I just wanted to reach out to all the parents and athletes and make sure that everyone has the same information that we have going into the season. Remember that all of these guidelines and decisions are being made intentionally and are all being done in the interest of keeping everyone involved safe. With that being said, here are some of the changes that are going to take place this year for us. Be aware that other schools may have slightly different rules so please be respectful as you travel to other places.

ATHLETES:

- Practices will start June 1st and are limited to players and coaches only. Parents can drop off their kids but can not stay and watch. They must stay in their car the entire time.
- The state asks that all athletes take their temperature at home every day before practice or games. If their temperature is over 100.4 degrees they should stay home. Coaches may also take the temperatures of players at the field but we ask you to do it at home as well to prevent them from bringing a fever to the field in the first place. Anyone displaying any COVID-19 symptoms should stay home.
- Athletes will not be allowed to share water or fill up water using the communal hydrants. Athletes should bring their own water bottles/coolers.
- At practice athletes should do their best to social distance during drills and in between drills, maintaining 6 feet of separation whenever possible.
- If possible, athletes should use their own equipment. Coaches will sanitize all equipment before and after every practice and game. Make sure all equipment is legal and follows the rules. Helmets/bats do not have to match the team helmet/bat but they must be legal.
- Dugouts will not be used during practices. During games dugouts can be used but social distancing has to take place. The dugout will be extended outside of the dugout along the fence, so not everyone is in the dugout at the same time.
- Only players, coaches, and trainers are allowed in the dugout. No bat boys/girls, stat keepers, parents, friends, etc.
- Sunflower seeds are not allowed.
- Transportation will be handled as follows: We will be taking separate buses for baseball and softball. Athletes will be expected to sit in a seat by themselves with the expectation to sit every other seat as much as possible. Baseball boys will be transported to Gilmore City in school vehicles from West Bend. If you live by Gilmore City you can just meet the team at the field. If you want to make other transportation arrangements for your child please talk with the coaches. The coaches will then let the administration know. You will be required to provide written permission for this alternate transportation plan. **You will not be allowed to have any open food or drink in any of the school vehicles or buses!**

FANS:

- Once again, no fans are allowed at practices and no fans are allowed in the dugout at any time during games.
- We will not be taking tickets this year at games. Many places will have a 'free will donation bucket' so feel free to give as you would normally. No parents will have to collect tickets this year for softball. It is possible that some of the places we play will collect admission so don't assume every game will be free.
- Bleachers will be open at some schools but with limited seating only. We encourage you to all bring your own camping chairs and to spread out around the field instead of using the bleachers. Some schools have said they will remove their bleachers altogether so take a chair with you to all away games.
- There will be no concession stands this year. Fans are allowed and even encouraged to bring their own coolers with food and drinks. Obviously fans need to still follow the normal rules of no tobacco or alcohol on school grounds.

Once again, remember that the rules could be more stringent at other facilities. Please respect the rules that other schools have in place and follow them as instructed. Violations of socially distancing or other rules could result in you being asked to leave a game. If you have any questions or concerns don't hesitate to contact myself or any of the administration. It's a strange situation but we will work through it together and do our best to make it a safe and positive experience for everyone.

-Tyson Wirtz