

# DELUCA FIELD SAFE RETURN TO PLAY PROTOCOL

Brakettes Softball is committed to providing a safe environment for players, officials, workers, and spectators. Once the resumption of outdoor sports activities is approved by both the State of Connecticut and Town of Stratford, our plan for keeping Frank DeLuca Hall of Fame Field safe includes:

**As of June 2, 2020 at 9 a.m., “Connecticut residents now must wear face masks when out in public places where social distancing isn’t possible, including essential workplaces.” What does this mean for us? Everyone, including all employees, entering Frank DeLuca Hall of Fame Field must wear a mask. Spectators may remove them if they are able to maintain the required 6-foot social distance required.**

1 Dugouts will be limited to only players in uniform and 3 coaches (max.). No bat girls or bat boys will be permitted. Team scorekeepers must sit in the bleachers.

2 A **designated adult** may be in the dugout for the purpose of retrieving the bats on the field and returning them to dugout area to sanitize them. This person may be the team’s scorekeeper. **Players are NOT permitted to retrieve the previous hitters bat.**

3 The newly renovated dugout area is exceptionally long and roomy (90 feet in length) with three team benches. Folding chairs will be added to both the first and third base dugouts to allow for social distancing of six feet apart.

4 Social distancing is paramount for spectators in the bleachers. Since seats are 18” in width, there must be at least 4 seats between people (the 6-foot rule). If more than one person from a family/household is in attendance, they may sit together. However, there still must be at least 4 seats between them and the next spectator. **Every other row in the bleachers will remain UNOCCUPIED.** Fans will be allowed to sit in seats marked with a decal.

4 Except for the people designated in the first two items, no one else will be permitted on the lower level of the field, meaning everyone must remain in the permanent stands or sit in lawn chairs beyond the temporary outfield fence. Areas where chairs may be placed will be marked with spray paint on the grass. Access to the outfield grass will be via the first base bleachers exit ramp.

5 Providing all team personnel in the dugout maintain social distancing, players/coaches are NOT required to wear face masks. Field players may wear masks, but they are not required.

6 A Brakettes employee designated as the Safety Director will be on site to monitor and manage all the rules related to safety at the park.

7 Upon entering the ballpark, the Brakettes certified athletic trainer or another team employee will conduct a temperature check with a laser thermometer. Anyone with a temp of 100.4, or higher, will not be permitted inside and will be asked to leave.

8 No seeds or gum will be permitted as that encourages spitting.

**9 Teams and individuals are responsible for bringing their own sanitizing wipes for restroom and personal cleanliness.**

10 No communal water coolers will be permitted. Teams/players are responsible for providing their own water bottles. Players should keep their individual thermos or water bottle in their back pack and not leave it out where a teammate may inadvertently use it. Sharing is NOT permitted. There are NO functional water fountains in the park.

11 Individual players may bring food or drink for themselves. Tailgating is PROHIBITED and no team meals are allowed in the ballparks.

12 No pop-up tents other than the ones teams use to extend the dugout space will be permitted as personal tents encourage gathering too close together.

13 Spectators must be seated, except when going to visit the bathroom or concession area. Spectators are required to wear masks if social distancing can't be maintained or when leaving their seat to visit the bathroom or concession area. Leaning over the team dugouts is strictly prohibited and violators will be asked to leave the ballpark. There is no standing in the aisles or the walkways between the homeplate reserved sections and first and third base bleachers, a favorite area for fans to congregate.

14 The permanent refreshment stand will NOT be open. Bottled water, soda and pre-packaged snacks (chips, candy, etc.) will be on sale at the front of the *Brake Stop* souvenir booth. Spaces will be marked at 6-foot intervals.

15 The USA Softball double-base will be used at first base to avoid unnecessary contact between batter/runner and fielder.

16 Pre- and post-game team huddles inside the dugout or on outfield grass areas are not permitted. Players are asked to stay in the lower level of the field between games of a doubleheader (except to use portalets) and not mingle with family, friends, or fans to maintain social distancing.

17 The traditional post-game handshake line will be replaced by a friendly wave to the opponent.

18 The sharing of equipment is strictly PROHIBITED. Every player must have their own helmet, use their own bat, and not share their fielder's glove or batting glove with teammates.

19 Game balls will be sanitized between innings by a Brakettes employee.

20 Permanent bathroom facilities have been replaced by portalets, located near the entrance to the ballpark. There are two regular units and one handicapped unit. Six-foot spacing will be marked. There is also a stand-alone sanitizer near the ballpark entrance.

21 Pre-game umpires meeting at home plate will consist of both umpires and one (1) coach for each team while exercising social distancing. **Players are not permitted to participate in the meeting.**

22 In-game conferences on the pitching mound are limited to the pitcher, coach, and catcher. No other player may enter the 8-foot pitching circles.

23 Periodic announcements on the PA system will remind spectators of the importance of social distancing as well as personal hygiene.

24 Rules pertaining to the game management and players/coaches/fans safety will be displayed throughout the ballpark.

25 During tournaments, once a game is over the next teams scheduled to occupy either first or third base dugouts must remain outside (behind bleachers) until the current team has left and the dugout has been disinfected.

26 Umpires will NOT be conducting pre-game bat checks. Coaches are responsible for checking their own bats and informing the umpires they are properly equipped.

27 Umpires positioning on the playing field is determined by USA Softball rules & regulations.

28 Pre-game warmups (to begin the season) will be limited to ONLY throwing. Hitting the ball, or any other object used to simulate a ball, with a bat is prohibited on the field (i.e., pepper, infield grounders, outfield fly balls, whiffle balls, etc.). **NOTE: This restriction could ease as the season progresses.**

**NOTE: For additional information, please contact Bob Baird, General Manager, Brakettes Softball at (203) 218-1066, or [brakettesgm@gmail.com](mailto:brakettesgm@gmail.com)**