

2021 ADIDAS JUCO KICKOFF CLASSIC & SHOWCASE

COVID-19 PROTOCOLS AND GUIDELINES (UPDATED AS OF 1/19/21)

In these unprecedented times, the management and staff of the **Adidas JUCO Kickoff Classic** recognize the importance of our role in establishing operational procedures, protocols and guidelines that will benefit the health and wellbeing of all of our participants, staff, and spectators.

The operational procedures and guidelines listed below adhere to guidelines of the CDC and to local and state health departments, as well as effective protocols used at other successful softball events. The objective of these procedures and guidelines is to maintain a safe and healthy environment while continuing to create memorable experiences that will last a lifetime all while not becoming a burden or hindrance to the overall game experience. These operational procedures and guidelines apply to all teams, participants, spectators, and anyone else involved in this event.

#1 MOST IMPORTANT ITEM – IF YOU ARE SICK, STAY HOME!

Teams, participants, spectators, umpires, recruiters, and staff should monitor their health status. Those who are not feeling well, or who have had recent exposure to a person with COVID-19, or who have traveled to/from a foreign country or any restricted travel region within the 14 days prior to the event should not attend.

The elderly and anyone with serious underlying medical conditions which place them in the vulnerable groups for COVID-19 are encouraged to not attend this event or any sport activities.

Prior to the Event:

All teams, spectators, participants, umpires, and recruiters are vigorously encouraged to bring personal hand sanitizer, masks, chairs, antibacterial wipes, and individually labeled drink bottles for personal use. It is recommended that teams emphasize to their members that they should limit their activities during the 2 weeks prior to the event (think “bubble”), and/or make sure that they use masks and social distancing to limit possible exposure opportunities during that time.

At check-in, teams are required to provide a completed Mandatory List of Travel Party Members to the tournament. Teams are also required to do mandatory temperature checks prior to leaving their school or hotel. Additional information will be provided to the teams regarding this. Daily temperature checks will also be taken of all tournament staff, volunteers and umpires.

The City of Clearwater and the Eddie C Moore Sports Complex staff will sanitize the common touch points in advance of the daily events. They will install hand sanitizer stations around the facility, and there will be increased signage at the facility entry points and bathrooms stating best practices in reducing the spread of communicable disease.

The JUCO Kickoff management will establish a sanitizing squad that will sanitize the dugouts prior to the event and between games. They will also rope off additional areas for dugout overflow. The published game schedule will be modified to include extra time for team transiting dugouts and for sanitizing between games. Extra signage will be placed at the gates, on fencing and in dugouts regarding social distancing and Covid-19 protocols and guidelines.

During the Event:

All attending the event, including spectators, participants, recruiters, umpires, etc., are to wear face coverings as they walk through common areas, and when seated with or near non-family members. Spectators are encouraged to wait in their cars before games and in-between games instead of congregating in the park. Masks should be worn if social distancing not available.

At Complex 1 (Fields 1-4) all teams (team members only) are to use the Team Gate on the west side of the park for entering and exiting the park. All others are to use the Main Gate on south side of park. All gates are manned and monitored by staff.

Hand washing will be available in the bathrooms. There will be hand sanitizing stations in the common areas. EVERYONE is encouraged to bring their own hand sanitizer. Players, coaches and umpires should frequently sanitize their hands before, during and after play.

At Complex 1, there are touchless water fountains on the main building where anyone can refill your water bottles.

CDC physical distancing guidelines should be followed at all times while not on the field. Players should utilize social distancing in the dugouts and dugout overflow area. They should wear masks when not on the field including the dugout and common areas. They should also limit all player personal contact (no high fives, handshakes, hugging, huddling, etc.). Teams should use the sideline/foul line areas for group communications so social distancing can be maintained.

If a member of your team becomes ill during the event, or one of your fans or family members, please advise the tournament staff so appropriate notifications can be made.

Pre-Game:

The area outside the outfield temporary fence on each field is designated as the team warmup and waiting area. If your team will be in the 1st base dugout then you will warmup/wait outside the right field outfield fence, and if your team will be in the 3rd base dugout then you will warmup/wait outside the left field outfield fence. Enter that area from outfield gate on both sides of field, not through dugouts.

Before entering the dugout before the game, please wait and give distance to the tournament staff that will be sanitizing the dugout prior to your entry. Entry into the dugout should not be attempted until the departing team is completely clear of the area and sanitizing has been completed. You are NOT to congregate near the dugout blocking the exit of another team. Enter dugout from the field and exit through the dugout overflow area.

There are to be no loose paper cups or plastic cups in the dugouts, and players are not to share drinks, snacks or equipment. The tournament WILL NOT provide communal dugout coolers during the event this year. Teams may bring their own team cooler for bottled water (no spigot coolers), and players should use their own refillable water/drink bottles. The tournament will provide complimentary Gatorade and water hydration stations for the teams near the concession stands where players can fill their personal bottles prior to their game. These stations will be monitored by the tournament staff and regularly sanitized. Hand sanitizer and disposable gloves will be available at the hydration stations. There is a touchless water fountain on the building at Complex 1 where you can refill your bottles.

During Games:

A game ball management plan will be in place during this event. Each team is required to bring their own game balls. These are to be new balls that are approved by NJCAA as official game balls for use in regular season games. You should anticipate at least 2-3 new balls per game. Umpires WILL NOT handle the game balls. The team on defense will provide the ball for use while they are on defense. The pitcher will bring the game ball on and off the field. Only defensive players are to touch their game ball. The team on defense should designate bench players to track down the out of play balls, but a ball in waiting must be provided immediately to the pitcher from her dugout so as not to delay the game.

Physical distancing should be maintained during all pre-game and game time activities, home plate meetings, team warm-ups, team huddles, etc. Dugouts will have a maximum capacity established, and excess team members will need to wait in the designated dugout overflow area.

Athletes and coaches on the field may wear face coverings during play if they feel it safe to do so but are not required. Base coaches are required to have coach helmets. Coaches with or without masks should respect social distance with umpires. Home plate umpires MUST wear a facemask at all times. Base umpires are also encouraged to wear facemasks on the field but MUST have a facemask during any conferences/communications with players/coaches when unable to social distance.

Sharing of personal equipment or related items (uniforms, bats, gloves, etc.) should be avoided. If any equipment is shared, it will need to be sanitized between use.

Food items that require spitting are prohibited (for example, sunflower seeds, nuts, etc.).

Post-Game:

When games are completed, participants are not allowed to huddle on the field, and the customary team handshakes post-game are prohibited/suspended.

Upon leaving your dugout when game is over, you are to make sure that all trash is picked up and disposed of. Please exit your dugout through the overflow area as quickly and as safely as possible. Players should wear facemasks while walking through the common areas. Find an area away from the crowd or go to your bus or vehicles to have your post-game discussion with your team.

Post-Event:

Teams are required to advise the tournament if any Travel Party Member tests positive for Covid-19 the week after the event so other participating teams can be notified.

If you have any questions about these guidelines and protocols, please contact patsho@fastpitchheadquarters.com.