

Safety Face Mask Policy

Effective August 2021

Following is the policy set by the PGSL requiring player safety face masks. This policy will be in force immediately for the 2021 Fall Ball season and thereafter, until amended.

For the safety of our players, the PGSL Board of Directors has determined that:

- For our 6U, 8U and 10U teams, all players (including pitchers, infielders, and outfielders) must wear a USA Softball approved safety facemask while in the field as a pitcher or player in practices and games. This includes warm-up throws and fielding practice for infield and outfield.
- For our 12U and 14U teams, pitchers and infielders must wear masks in games and it is also recommended for outfielders. We also highly recommended that players in this age group practice and warm-up wearing face masks.

This requirement will be enforced by the PGSL Board of Directors and its designees, including umpires and all coaches. Those required to wear a face mask per the above, will not be allowed to practice or play in a game until a face mask is worn.

PGSL will provide extra face masks for players who forget to bring their face masks to practice and games. However, it will be the responsibility of the parent/guardian to procure a facemask for their player prior to the beginning of team practices and games.

This policy is based on evolving safety concerns within the softball community, and is not exclusive to the PGSL. Face mask policies are rapidly being enacted at other local leagues and leagues throughout the country.

In a study published by the **American Journal of Emergency Medicine**, it was concluded that "being hit by a ball was the most common mechanism of injury (52.4%) and accounted for most of face (89.6%) and head (75.7%) injuries". Pitchers and third base are especially vulnerable to fast moving balls. Additional articles can be found in the **Rip-It Blog** including their **Facemask Awareness Month** posts. **Click here for a college pitchers experience.**

