



Hello, Coaches!

We are so happy to re-announce that the Oklahoma City Challenge is happening and we're excited to see you all take the field again! ***This is filled with critical information - while we know it's long, it's important to read through in its entirety to ensure your team's experience goes off without a hitch!***

The below parameters were established by USSSA at a national level. It is important to remember that this guidance does not replace or supersede any protocols or restrictions outlined by state or local authorities. We all must continue to follow our state and local guidelines.

Player/Coach Safety -

- Minimize player contact by eliminating team/player handshakes and high-fives. Other means of celebration such as tips of caps are suggested.
- Managers meeting at home plate should be limited to one coach per team and umpires - No players. In some instances, the meeting may be eliminated entirely.
- If player equipment is shared, we recommend taking precautions to clean equipment in between use.
- Teams are allowed to spread players out - expand the dugout area when room permits, staying clear of foul ball areas.
- Teams are encouraged to limit bench personnel to essential team personnel only.
- If players choose, they may wear personal protective items, such as masks and gloves, as long as the items do not compromise the safety of any and all participants in the game.
- Use of dugout water coolers and otherwise shared water bottles is discouraged.
- Teams are required to clean their dugout of all trash and other items before and after each game, and to wipe down hard surfaces such as benches, bat racks, etc. with sanitizing products.

General Safety -

- Players, coaches and fans are encouraged to bring hand sanitizer and antibacterial wipes for disinfecting hands and equipment regularly.
- Fans are encouraged to bring their own chairs to all events or clean an area of a bleacher before using.
- The use of sunflower seeds is prohibited.
- When using a tent, please restrict it to family members only.
- All in attendance must adhere to the guidelines from the CDC, state and local authorities regarding state travel restrictions and stay-at-home orders.
- All event attendees are encouraged to practice social distancing.
- Any person who is experiencing symptoms of sickness will be prohibited from attending the event. Attendance by those that are most vulnerable is discouraged.

Again, this is the guidance established at a national level by USSSA. Per the directive of local authorities, there may be *additional guidance and requirements*. **Our Take the Field team has worked with our Oklahoma City parks and provided the following as additional guidance for the Oklahoma City Challenge:**

Player/Coach Safety -

- Each team will pitch with their own balls. This is being done to limit the ball contact to players of the same team. Four, individually wrapped, game balls will be provided to each team at coaches check-in. Additional individually wrapped balls will be available for purchase throughout the event as needed.
- Umpires will maintain their normal positions and will not be moved behind the mound or otherwise around the field.
- Awards ceremonies will not take place. The General Manager of the event will hand awards to coaches. Team pictures will be at the discretion of coaches and parents.

General Safety -

- While personal protective equipment is not required, it is encouraged.
- Teams and their families are discouraged from congregating in large groups for extended periods of time.
- Social distancing practices are recommended. Lines around restrooms, concession stands or otherwise throughout the event are discouraged, but if necessary, please maintain a distance of 6 feet at all times.

GATE PROCESS ADJUSTMENTS:

In an effort to improve traffic flow at the entrance of the event, and to reduce contact and the exchange of cash, our gate procedures are changing. Instead of our normal system of exchanging cash and stamps for entry, **all teams are required to purchase a \$250 electronic gate pass in advance of the event.** Once the team e-pass has been purchased, all fans of that team are allowed to come and go from the event freely, staying within the above event guidelines regarding health and safety of all. Event attendees are not required to show the e-pass, stamps, or other indicators of payment for entrance. All teams will be required to purchase this pass in order to compete in the event. We will also be taking precautions to open all entrances around the complex to improve traffic flow in and out of the complex. **All e-passes must be purchased by May 24th.**

To purchase the e-pass, you or your team manager can follow these steps:

- Log on to your team USSSA account online
- Click the appropriate team (it is important you click the correct team if you have more than one team)
- Scroll to the bottom where it provides several “bubble” options
- Select, “View Events/Make a Payment” and click “Add 2 Cart,” under Gate Fee
- Select “Checkout” on the lower left hand side of your screen under SHOPPING CART
- This will take you to the payment page where you can proceed to enter your payment information. *Note, the process is not finished until you have received a confirmation or receipt number.

We hope this provides the clarity you all have been looking for. Thanks for hanging in there with us and we can't wait to see your players take the field soon!

MSP Love,
The PlayMSP Team