

Little League of East Bridgewater Resumption of 2020 Spring/Summer Season Guidelines

Social Distancing:

■All players, coaches, volunteers, independent contractors, and spectators will practice social distancing of six feet wherever possible from individuals not residing within their household, especially in common areas. For situations when players are engaging in the sports activity, more information will be provided in the on field guidance section.

Self-monitoring and quarantine:

■All individuals will measure their body temperature to ensure that no fever is present prior to participating or attending each Little League activity. Anyone with symptoms of fever, cough, or worsening respiratory symptoms, or any known exposure to a person with COVID-19 will not attend any Little League activity until cleared by a medical professional .

■Any individual, including players, at risk for severe illness or with serious underlying medical or respiratory conditions will only attend Little League activities with permission from a medical professional.

No Handshakes/Personal Contact Celebrations:

■Players and coaches will take measures to prevent all but the essential contact necessary to play the game. This will include refraining from handshakes, high fives, fist/elbow bumps, chest bumps, group celebrations, etc. Little League International suggests lining up outside the dugout and tipping caps to the opposing team as a sign of good sportsmanship after a game.

■Players and families will vacate the field/facility as soon as is reasonably possible after the conclusion of their game to minimize unnecessary contact with players, coaches, and spectators from the next game, ideally within 15 minutes.

Drinks and Snacks:

■Athletes, managers/coaches, and umpires will bring their own personal drinks to all team activities. Drinks will be labeled with the person's name.

■Individuals will take their own drink containers home each night for cleaning and sanitation or use single-use bottles.

■There will be no use of shared or team beverages.

■Teams will not share any snacks or food. Players will bring individual, pre-packaged food, if needed.

Personal Protective Equipment (PPE):

■All managers/coaches, volunteers, umpires, etc., will wear PPE whenever applicable and possible, such as cloth face coverings.

■Players will wear cloth face coverings when in close contact areas and in places where recommended social distancing is challenging or not feasible, such as in dugouts.

■Players will not wear protective medical gloves on the field during game play.

- Players, especially at younger divisions, are not required to wear a cloth face covering while on the field during game play.
- Players will be permitted to wear a cloth face covering on the field during game play, if physically able to do so, based on any directive of a medical provider or individual determination of the player/parent/guardian.

Dugouts:

- Managers/coaches and players will be assigned spots in the dugout or on the bleachers so that they are at least six feet apart and must be placed behind a fence.
- Players are to stay at their assigned spots when on the bench or while waiting their turn to bat.
- Players and managers/coaches will wear a cloth face covering while in the dugout.

Player Equipment:

- No personal player bat bags/equipment bags will be allowed in the dugout. Player equipment will be spaced accordingly outside the dugout to prevent direct contact.
- Players will have their own individual batter's helmet, glove, bat, and catcher's equipment.
- Measures will be enacted to avoid, or minimize, equipment sharing when feasible
- Some critical equipment may not be able to be obtained by every individual. When it is necessary to share critical or limited equipment, all surfaces of each piece of shared equipment must be cleaned first and then disinfected with an EPA-approved disinfectant against COVID-19 and allowed sufficient time to dry before being used by a new player. Increased attention will be paid to detailed cleaning of all equipment directly contacting the head and face (catcher's mask, helmets).
- Player's equipment (e.g. bags, helmets, bats, gloves, etc.) will be cleaned and disinfected after each use by a parent/guardian/caretaker, where applicable.
- Individuals disinfecting equipment are encouraged to use gloves while using disinfectants and follow the manufacturer's directions for use. All disinfectants will be stored properly, in a safe area, out of reach of children.

Baseballs and Softballs:

- Baseballs and softballs will be rotated through on a regular basis, at least every two innings, to limit individual contact.
- Umpires will limit their contact with the ball, and catchers will retrieve foul balls and passed balls where possible.
- Balls used in infield/outfield warm-up will be isolated from a shared ball container.
- Foul balls landing outside the field of play will be retrieved by participating players, coaches, and umpires. No spectators will retrieve the ball.

Spitting, Sunflower Seeds, Gum, etc.:

- Sunflower seeds, gum, etc., will not be allowed in dugouts or on the playing field.
- All players and coaches are to refrain from spitting at all times, including in dugout areas and on the playing field.

Pre-Game Plate Meetings:

- Social distancing of six feet between individuals will be implemented during all pre-game plate meetings between teams and umpires.
- Plate meetings will only consist of one manager or coach from each team, and game umpires.
- All participants will wear a cloth face covering.
- No players will ever be a part of plate meetings.

Equipment Inspection:

- Players will place their individual equipment in a well-spaced out manner for inspection. Umpires will avoid direct contact with equipment where possible but, when required, use hand sanitizer that contains at least 60 percent alcohol after the inspection of each individual piece of equipment.

Limit League/Game Volunteers:

- For each game, there will only be the required team managers/coaches, umpires, and one (1) league administrator (i.e. Safety Officer, player agent, etc.) in attendance.
- Practices will be limited to the managers/coaches and players.
- Scorekeeping will be done by team coaches or team parent/guardian via GameChanger. Proper social distancing will be practiced.
- Scoring boxes will be utilized by only one person at a time, or two persons that reside in the same household..

Field Preparation and Maintenance:

- Fields will be mowed, raked, and lined prior to teams and spectators arriving at the complex and after they depart. It is encouraged that volunteers already participating in the game (managers/coaches, umpires, and league administrator) perform these tasks to limit individuals at the site.
- Any shared field preparation equipment will be sprayed or wiped with a cleaner and disinfectant before and after each use.

Umpire Placement:

- Umpires are permitted to be placed behind the pitcher's mound/circle to call balls and strikes. Umpires will be encouraged to keep a safe distance from players as much as possible. and wear protective gloves.
- If physically able, umpires will be encouraged to wear cloth face coverings while umpiring.

Clean and Disinfect Shared Equipment and Surfaces:

- Clean AND disinfect frequently touched surfaces daily and in between all facility uses, including practices and games. This includes tables, doorknobs, light switches, countertops, handles, desks, phones, keyboards, facility equipment, dugouts, toilets, faucets, and sinks.
- If surfaces are visibly soiled or dirty, they will be cleaned with a detergent or soap and water prior to disinfection.

- An electrostatic sanitizer has been procured to clean all restrooms, dugouts, snack bar and other shared spaces between all sanctioned games.

Spread Out Scheduling of Practices and Games:

- We will schedule sufficient time between practices and games to facilitate the complete evacuation of individuals from a previous practice or game from the premises before the next group enters.
- Players/families/spectators are instructed not to show up to fields more than 40 minutes before game time.
- Where possible, individuals will enter our complex through one point of entry and exit through another.
- Arrivals to the complex will be scheduled to help ensure a large number of individuals are not arriving at the same time.
- If there is a game or practice prior to our event, families and spectators will be encouraged to stay in their vehicles or at recommended social distances until the start of their game play to prevent overcrowding of spectator spaces and walkways.
- On-field warm-up will be limited as much as is reasonably possible and no more than 30 minutes.
- We will ensure that practices and games follow all local and state directives regarding the number of people allowed to gather in one place.

Limiting Spectator Attendance:

- All spectators will follow best social distancing practices — stay six feet away from individuals outside their household; wear a cloth face covering; avoid direct hand or other contact with players/managers/coaches during play.
- We may choose to minimize the exposure risk to spectators by limiting attendance to only essential volunteers and limited family members.
- Spectators will bring their own seating or portable chairs when possible.
- A spectator with any of the following conditions will not attend a practice or game until evaluated by a medical provider and given clearance to do so:
 - Active COVID-19 infection
 - Known direct contact with an individual testing positive for COVID-19
 - Fever
 - Cough
- Those at higher risk for severe disease will consider consultation with their medical provider before attending a game and will ensure the strictest adherence to guidelines regarding face coverings, distancing, and handwashing. Such groups include:
 - Those with a serious underlying medical condition, including heart disease, morbid obesity, diabetes, lung disease, immunocompromised, chronic kidney disease, and chronic lung disease.
 - Those currently residing in a nursing home or long-term care facility
 - Those over 65

Public Restrooms:

- Communicate information on available facilities and policies to all parents prior to resuming or beginning season.
- Access to public restrooms will be limited if possible.
- A “one-in-one-out” policy, where only one individual is permitted within the restroom at one time, will be implemented to ensure adequate distancing in the confined restroom space.
- Prior to and after any league activity, restrooms will be thoroughly cleaned and disinfected. Restrooms will be disinfected on a regular basis.

Post Information to Promote Everyday Preventive Actions:

- Leagues will display posters and signs throughout the park to frequently remind visitors to take steps to prevent the spread of COVID-19. These messages may include information about:
 - Staying home if you are sick or do not feel well, and what to do if you're sick or feel ill.
 - Using social distancing and maintaining at least six feet between individuals in all areas of the park.
 - We will use CDC downloadable resources to post at public places; and leagues are encouraged to utilize additional resources from their state or local authorities.

Member Communication:

- Local leagues will disseminate information to all families, volunteers, and spectators about the Coronavirus risk and the efforts our league will be undertaking to mitigate those risks, as outlined above. Information will be disseminated by way of email, league website, social media, coach talks, and public announcements.