Richmond Little League
COVID-19 Return to Play Policies and Best Practices
(published June 22, 2020)

As details of state and local phasing guidelines are published and revised, these guidelines are subject to modification.

General Rules and Requirements

1) Richmond Little League (RLL) requires that players, coaches, umpires, volunteers and spectators at RLL events (collectively, RLL Community) adhere to all guidelines set forth by the Commonwealth of Virginia and the City of Richmond. If an RLL team is participating in an event in a locality outside of the City of Richmond, RLL requires the RLL Community involved to adhere to that locality’s guidelines. RLL expects the RLL Community to stay informed of all changes to state and local guidelines.

2) Individuals should measure their body temperature to ensure that no fever is present prior to participating in or attending a RLL event. An RLL Community member experiencing any of the following may not attend or participate in an RLL activity until cleared by a medical professional:
   a. fever (100.4 degrees Fahrenheit or higher) or a sense of having a fever,
   b. a new cough that cannot be attributed to another health condition,
   c. new shortness of breath that cannot be attributed to another health condition,
   d. new chills that cannot be attributed to another health condition,
   e. a new sore throat that cannot be attributed to another health condition, or
   f. new muscle aches that cannot be attributed to another health condition or specific activity (such as physical exercise).

   RLL Board members and managers have the discretion and authority to address an instance in which an RLL Community member is not in compliance with this requirement.

3) Any individual, including players, at risk for severe illness or with serious underlying medical or respiratory condition should not attend RLL events without written permission from a medical professional.

4) Please adhere to all signage posted at the RLL fields, including all signage directing the flow and movement of people.

5) RLL expects the RLL Community to practice appropriate physical distancing at RLL events based on the most recent guidance from state and local authorities.

6) RLL encourages every family to provide their own hand sanitizer and disinfectant wipes/cleaner. RLL will also have hand sanitizer and disinfectant for use. Players, coaches and umpires will be encouraged to regularly clean hands and team equipment.

7) With respect to food and drink,
a. Players may not bring food into the dugout.

b. Given the time of year, the RLL Community is strongly encouraged to bring their own drinks. Please label your player’s drinks with his/her name.

c. Use of public water fountains is strongly discouraged (and they may be inoperable).

d. Sunflower seeds will not be permitted at any RLL event.

e. Players may not chew gum in the field or in the dugout.

8) RLL does not know if/how the City will maintain the public restrooms at Byrd Park. RLL will ensure there are restrooms available for use at Byrd Park and the John B. Carey field during the season. RLL intends to open and maintain the restroom facilities at Maymont. All restrooms should be limited to one person (or one parent and one child) at a time.

9) Practice and game scheduling will look different this season. Start times will be staggered and spaced to reduce the number of teams warming up at one time and to allow for proper cleaning. All games will have hard stop times (times vary by division). Teams must vacate the field promptly after conclusion of the game.

Players

1) In the field of play, players should maintain appropriate physical distancing where feasible; however, contact and close proximity between players that occurs during the normal course of a game is allowed.

2) In the dugouts, players will also maintain appropriate physical distancing based on the most recent guidance from state and local authorities. Set up will look differently at different RLL venues. Where necessary, dugouts will be extended to bleachers and adjacent areas to allow for proper spacing. All players should bring their own chairs. In the tee ball, machine pitch and girls softball coach pitch divisions, one parent may sit with his or her player to promote and maintain physical distancing amongst the players.

3) Players may, but are not required to, wear face coverings.

4) Players should avoid touching their eyes, nose and face.

5) Players may not high/low five, hug, or fist/elbow/chest bump.

6) Team huddles are not permitted (team meetings are permitted with appropriate distancing).

7) Players may not share towels.

8) Sharing of equipment among players is discouraged. When this equipment must be shared, all surfaces will be cleaned with disinfectant between uses. RLL encourages parents/caregivers to disinfect all of their player’s equipment after each use.

9) At the conclusion of games, players will line up on their respective base lines and tip caps, wave, etc. to demonstrate sportsmanship.

Coaches, Umpires, and other Volunteers

1) Coaches, umpires and other volunteers will limit, to the greatest extent practicable, physical
contact with players and with one another.

2) Dugouts will be limited to essential personnel only (exception: Rule 2 under Players).

3) To begin the season, balls and strikes will be called from behind the pitching mound.

4) Coaches will monitor players for COVID-19 symptoms.

5) Coaches will oversee physical distancing and enforce all player procedures.

6) The scoring table at Byrd Park will be closed until further notice by the RLL Board. Scorekeepers are permitted outside of the dugout in other, appropriately distanced areas. Scoreboard controllers will be sanitized at the conclusion of each game.

7) The defensive team (the team in the field) will provide baseballs, and baseballs will be rotated in and out of play regularly.

8) Coaches and other Volunteers will disinfect high touch areas (e.g., gates and benches) after each practice or game.

**Spectators**

1) Bleachers at all RLL fields will be off limits to spectators until further notice by the RLL Board.

2) Spectators should space out at least six feet apart down the right field line fences, left field line fences and behind the outfield fences.

3) Please allow players and/or coaches to retrieve foul balls.

This is a list of restrictions and “can’t dos”. We need your help to comply with them because we’re all in it together. We also need your help to ensure we give our players the same RLL experience that all of us have grown to know and love over the years. We welcome any suggestions you have.