

# **NEWTON LITTLE LEAGUE**

## **A SAFETY AWARENESS PROGRAM (ASAP) SAFETY PLAN**

**SPRING 2020**

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## **ASAP SAFETY PLAN & SAFETY AT NLL**

This Safety Plan has been prepared in order to help Newton Little League's ("NLL") coaches, volunteers, umpires and board members provide the safest possible baseball experience to the players of our league. Copies of this plan are distributed to each coach, volunteer, umpire and board member in NLL, and may be found on the NLL website. A copy of this plan may also be found in the field equipment box at each of our fields.

NLL has made a comprehensive review of its playing fields, and developed a plan to improve player experience and player safety. Over the last several years, the three legacy Newton little leagues that comprise NLL employed professional athletic field contractors to upgrade a number of playing fields and remove hazardous conditions on many of the fields that NLL uses. NLL has implemented a plan of regular maintenance in order to prevent hazards from recurring at our playing fields.

Improvements in recent years include extensive renovation of the infield and outfield surfaces at Lyons Field, Peirce Field, Cabot Field and Murphy Field; removal of dangerous protrusions of ledge at Peirce Field; annual grading of infield clay at Lyons, Peirce, Cabot, Murphy and Roche; topping of infield and outfield fences with plastic caps at all fields with fences; installation of dark screens around a number of backstops at fields to improve player concentration and eliminate spectator interference with umpires and players; installation of an electronic scoreboard at Murphy Field; and a solar powered scoreboard was installed at Cabot Field, along with shade structures over the benches.

Lyons Field is the only field with stadium lighting, which increases safety and playing time for all player age groups.

If any coach, umpire or volunteer sees any dangerous conditions on our fields, or has suggestions for further improvements to player safety, please contact the League Safety Officer or Director Fields Operations.

## EMERGENCY CONTACTS

*In case of emergency please call the Newton Police or Newton Fire. As soon as it is safe to make another call, please telephone the NLL Safety Officer.*

Newton Police: 617-796-2100

Newton Fire: 617-796-2200

Nearest Hospital:

Newton Wellesley Hospital: 617-243-6000

2014 Washington Street Newton, MA 02462

*Note: Please program the Newton Police telephone number into your cell phone. Calls made from a cell phone to 911 are routed to a state-wide call center which then must determine your exact location and which police department to dispatch. Operators in the call center are not likely to be familiar with the parks in Newton and explaining your location may take precious time. If you call the Newton Police directly they will quickly know exactly where you are and are able to help you more quickly.*

NLL Safety Officer: Dave Walsh  
(c) 617-905-2368  
david\_walsh@comcast.net

## NLL BOARD CONTACTS

President: Doug Feldman  
[Dfeldman73@gmail.com](mailto:Dfeldman73@gmail.com)

Secretary: Terry Morris  
[tpmorris.landuse.law@comcast.net](mailto:tpmorris.landuse.law@comcast.net)

Treasurer: John Dalton  
[john\\_dalton76@yahoo.com](mailto:john_dalton76@yahoo.com)

Safety Officer: Dave Walsh  
[david\\_walsh@comcast.net](mailto:david_walsh@comcast.net)

Director Fields Operations: Brian Hurley  
[bhurley@garlandbuildingcorp.com](mailto:bhurley@garlandbuildingcorp.com)

Major League Commissioner: Greg Bond  
[Gregory.bond2@gmail.com](mailto:Gregory.bond2@gmail.com)

Player Agent: Desmond Fitzgerald  
[dfitzgerald@fitzgeraldlawcompany.com](mailto:dfitzgerald@fitzgeraldlawcompany.com)

VP Player and Coach Development: Bill Frabizio  
[Billfrabizio@gmail.com](mailto:Billfrabizio@gmail.com)

AAA Commissioner: Marty West  
[martin\\_west@gse.harvard.edu](mailto:martin_west@gse.harvard.edu)

AA Commissioner: Kevin Oxendyne  
[koxendine@gmail.com](mailto:koxendine@gmail.com)

A & Farm Commissioner: Dave Grossman  
[dgrossman@grossmanmarketing.com](mailto:dgrossman@grossmanmarketing.com)

T-Ball & Rookie Commissioner: Aaron Kammerer  
[akammerer@gmail.com](mailto:akammerer@gmail.com)

VP Challenger League: Kevin Mealy  
[kmeal1918@hotmail.com](mailto:kmeal1918@hotmail.com)

Equipment Manager: Emmanuel Govignon  
[egovignon@hotmail.com](mailto:egovignon@hotmail.com)

## **BACKGROUND CHECKS OF EVERY VOLUNTEER**

Every manager, coach, board member, umpire, volunteer and hired worker who provides regular services to NLL and/or has access to or contact with players or teams must fill out and submit to the NLL Safety Officer the Little League Coach and Volunteer Registration form (which is available on the NLL website), including the volunteer's social security number, as well as provide a copy of a government issued photo identification card for identification verification.

**Anyone refusing to fill out and submit a Volunteer Application, including their social security number, is ineligible to serve in any capacity with NLL.**

The NLL Safety Officer will perform a Massachusetts (CORI) background check on everyone who submits a Volunteer Registration. In addition, tools made available to NLL by Little League International allow NLL to conduct a nationwide background check utilizing JDP software. In the event these background checks indicate that a volunteer's background does not meet NLL's standards then that person will not be allowed to serve NLL in any capacity.

## **TRAINING FOR COACHES**

NLL strives to offer an outstanding educational-athletic organization that provides a high-quality baseball experience for the boys and girls of our community. In order to achieve that goal we are dependent on the dedication of our volunteer coaches. NLL recognizes the dedication of its coaches and seeks to offer them educational opportunities in the form of clinics for coaches that will enhance their skill as coaches. NLL encourages every coach to attend each of these clinics. At a minimum, one coach from each team must attend one of these clinics. Tom Donnellan, a coach of the Newton North High School Baseball team, usually runs these clinics and they are always worthwhile. The clinics will be run from mid-March through the end of April/beginning of May at Newton North High School's Simulated Outdoor Area, or outside on the NNHS baseball field weather permitting. All age groups are provided clinic sessions.

### **FIRST AID & INJURY PREVENTION TRAINING FOR COACHES**

An important part of being a coach is knowing how to handle an emergency. In addition, understanding the dangers of concussions as well as the medical reasoning behind proper mechanics and pitch count rules will help us be better coaches. NLL plans to hold a first aid clinic on a date to be determined, to provide coaches with appropriate training. NLL encourages every coach to attend first aid clinics. At a minimum, one coach from each team must attend this clinic.

## **PRACTICE / GAME DAY FIELD INSPECTION**

Prior to every practice and game one coach from each team must perform the following inspection:

- Walk the field looking for debris, foreign objects, holes, and dangerous conditions
- Check the condition of the fences, backstop, bases and warning track
- Make sure that there is a first aid kit in the field equipment box
- Inspect helmets, bats and catchers gear
- Make sure that there is at least one working cell phone at the field
- All of NLL's fields use break-away or throw-down pillow bases. Check to make certain that the bases are working properly.

All unsafe conditions on the field should be repaired before the start of the game / practice or avoided during the practice. Report any unsafe conditions on the field to the NLL Safety Officer and the NLL Director Fields Operations immediately. Any unsafe equipment or equipment that is not in compliance with Little League rules must not be used. Report any unsafe equipment to the NLL Equipment Manager and the NLL Safety Officer immediately.

## **UMPIRE GUIDELINES – MANAGING GAMES**

Before the Game meet at Home Plate:

- Introduce plate and base umpires, managers and coaches
- Discuss field playing rules (i.e., time limits, playing boundaries)
- Discuss unsportsmanlike conduct by both players and coaches
- Clarify calling the game due to weather; time to start next game or darkness
- Inspect playing field for unsafe conditions
- Discuss no head first slides and no on deck swinging
- Be sure players are in uniform, with hats and shirts tucked in
- Inspect equipment for damage and compliance with rules
- Ensure that game starts promptly

During the game:

- Encourage coaches to speed play by having catchers and players on the bench prepared and ready to take the field
- Make sure that catchers are wearing proper safety equipment
- Continually monitor the field for safety and playability
- Keep game moving – limit warm up throws for pitchers to comply with rules
- Make calls loudly and clearly
- No arguing with the umpires
- Managers are responsible for keeping fans and players on their best behavior



## **EQUIPMENT & INSPECTIONS**

Prior to the start of the Spring 2020 season the Equipment Manager will inspect all of the equipment issued to each NLL team. As part of the equipment distributed to each team there are baseballs with the age appropriate reduced impact factor (“RIF”) for the use of the team. Please use the appropriate RIF for the age of your players. Contact the Equipment Manager with any questions or if you need additional baseballs.

Coaches should encourage the use of protective equipment by their players. All players, especially those playing infield positions, should be strongly encouraged to use a protective supporter / cup, and catchers should be required to wear a protective supporter / cup. Coaches should also encourage the use of a mouth guard while batting and playing infield positions. Mouth guards protect teeth and help to prevent concussions. Players may also make use of batting helmets with face guards. There are such helmets in the field equipment boxes for the use of your team.

Prior to the start of every game and practice the coaches of each team will inspect the NLL issued equipment and the equipment brought to the field by players.

Prior to the start of every game the umpire(s) will inspect the NLL issued equipment and the equipment brought to the field by players.

Any problems with equipment must be reported within 24 hours of discovering the problem(s) by the applicable team’s coach to the League Safety Officer and the Equipment Manager.

## **ACCIDENT REPORTING**

An incident that causes any player, manager, coach, umpire, or volunteer to receive medical treatment and/or first aid must be reported to the League Safety Officer within 24 hours of the occurrence of the incident. A near miss incident should also be reported. The League Safety Officer will then supply an Injury Report Form, which then must be completed and returned to the League Safety Officer within 48 hours.

## **FIRST AID KITS AT EACH FIELD**

NLL maintains a first aid kit in each field equipment box. The first aid kits are frequently inspected by the League Safety Officer and the Equipment Manager. Coaches and umpires should notify the League Safety Officer and the Equipment Manager of any missing items or items in need of replacement.

## **ENFORCEMENT OF ALL LITTLE LEAGUE RULES**

NLL aspires to comply with all Little League International Rules. Accordingly, all coaches, teams and umpires are expected to comply with Little League's 2020 Little League Official Regulations, Playing Rules, and Operating Policies (the "Green Book"). A copy of the Green Book has been distributed to every team. If your team did not receive a copy of the Green Book please contact your Commissioner immediately. Coaches and umpires must familiarize themselves with these rules and enforce them at every practice and game. This includes, but is not limited to, such rules as:

- No On-Deck Swinging
- All bases must be break away bases
- Coaches May Not Warm Up Pitchers Between Innings (Rule 3.09)
- Coaches Must Obey Lightning Rules

## **FACILITY SURVEY**

NLL has completed its annual facility survey and submitted it online to Little League International.

## **CONCESSION STAND SAFETY**

NLL has small concession stands at Murphy Field and Lyons Field. The stands must be inspected and approved by the Newton Department of Health prior to opening. Plans in 2020 call for the routine sale of only prepackaged candy and bottled drinks. The concession stand operations may be outsourced at a future date to a third-party who must hold appropriate food safety certification as required by the Department of Health. Guidelines are posted in clear view for those that work the concession stand, and all volunteers working the concession stand must wash hands with hand sanitizer at the start of their shift and periodically throughout their shift.

## **QUALIFIED SAFETY PLAN REGISTRATION FORM**

NLL has submitted a copy of this Safety Plan, together with its Qualified Safety Plan Registration Form and Facility Survey, to Little League International.

## **PLAYER REGISTRATION DATA; COACH AND MANAGER DATA**

League player registration data, roster data, and coach and manager data has been or will be submitted to the Little League Data Center.