

Newton Little League

2020 Summer Season Guidelines

Little League International has published guidelines for a return to play which can be found on their website here: <https://www.littleleague.org/player-safety/coronavirus-update/>. In addition to these requirements, we will be implementing additional distancing and safety measures in consultation with state and city authorities. Subject to additional guidance and instruction, significant requirements for the season include the following:

1. General Guidelines:

A. All players, coaches, volunteers, independent contractors, and spectators shall practice social distancing of six feet wherever possible from individuals not residing within their household. Masks must also be worn even when able to socially distance.

B. All individuals should measure their body temperature to ensure that no fever is present prior to participating or attending each Little League activity. In order to attend any events players, volunteers, coaches or spectators must show no signs or symptoms of COVID-19 for 14 days prior to the event. Current list of symptoms is available here: <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/symptoms-testing/symptoms.html>

C. Participants, organizers, spectators, volunteers and facility employees in high risk categories should not participate or attend organized sport activities. List of high-risk categories available here:

[https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/need-extra-precautions/people-with-medical-conditions.html#:~:text=People%20of%20any%20age%20with%20the%20following%20conditions%20are%20at,COPD%20\(chronic%20obstructive%20pulmonary%20disease\)](https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/need-extra-precautions/people-with-medical-conditions.html#:~:text=People%20of%20any%20age%20with%20the%20following%20conditions%20are%20at,COPD%20(chronic%20obstructive%20pulmonary%20disease))

D. Reporting:

1. All participants, including any the parents or guardians of any player, any coach, team manager, team volunteer, shall be shall be required to inform the League if any such participant, or any immediate household member of any such participant, is being tested for suspected COVID-19 infection, or if they have been diagnosed with COVID-19.
2. Should the League be notified of any such potential COVID-19 case the League will promptly:
 - A. Inform all players, coaches, team manager, team volunteer, and any parents/guardians who have potentially been exposed to that individual to the possible exposure (the identity of the individual shall remain confidential);
 - B. Perform an additional cleaning of any facilities or equipment subject to any possible exposure;
 - C. Contact Newton Parks, Recreation & Culture so that any other users of the fields where such exposure might have occurred can be notified;
 - D. Notify the City of Newton Health Department.

2. On Field:

A. Distancing/Cleaning/Food and Drinks:

1. Each team will have an adult designated as a safety monitor and shall be responsible for maintaining and enforcing these rules at both practices and games.
2. No Handshakes/Personal Contact Celebrations: Players and coaches should take measures to prevent all but the essential contact necessary to play the game. This should include refraining from handshakes, high fives, fist/elbow bumps, chest bumps, group celebrations, etc.
3. Players and families should vacate the field/facility immediately after the conclusion of their game to minimize unnecessary contact with players, coaches, and spectators from the next game.
4. All games and practices will have scheduled 30 minutes in between each scheduled event where no players are allowed on field or in field area.
5. The teams for the second game at Lyons cannot take the field or enter the dugout area before 7:30. The teams for the 5:00 game must not start a new inning after 6:45.
6. All hard surfaces will be disinfected by coaches and volunteers after each event.
7. No shared drinks or snacks; drinks should be labeled with the person's name; no gum or sunflower seeds.

B. Personal Protective Equipment (PPE):

1. All managers/coaches, volunteers, umpires, etc., will wear a face covering at all times.
2. Players are not required to, but will be permitted to wear a cloth face covering on the field during game play, if physically able to do so.
3. Players must wear a face covering while at bat or running the bases.
4. Players must wear a face covering at all times while not on the playing field.
5. Players must wear a face covering when in any other close contact areas or places where recommended social distancing is challenging or not feasible.

C. Game Play and Equipment:

1. Catchers shall field the position a minimum of two feet behind home plate.
2. Umpires shall call balls and strikes from behind pitcher's mound and shall maintain six foot distancing whenever possible.
4. No sharing of equipment; players must have their own individual batter's helmet, glove, bat, and catcher's equipment.
5. Player's equipment (e.g. bags, helmets, bats, gloves, etc.) must be cleaned and disinfected after each use by a parent/guardian/caretaker, where applicable.

6. Each team will have its own game balls to be used while that team is in the field. Balls should be cleaned and disinfected after each half inning by the team's designated safety monitor.
7. Umpires should limit their contact with the ball, and catchers should retrieve foul balls and passed balls where possible.
8. Foul balls landing outside the field of play should be retrieved by participating players, coaches, and umpires. No spectators should retrieve the ball.

D. Facilities:

1. Each field to be used will have assigned spots in a "bench area" for each player behind the field fence so that each player can maintain a six foot distance while not on the field of play.
2. Games to be held only at our Majors fields (Cabot, Lyons, Murphy). Dugouts at Lyons are limited to three players maximum.
3. Players are to stay at their assigned spots when on the bench area or while waiting their turn to bat.

D. Spectators:

1. Spectators must not interact with players, managers, or game volunteers during events; spectators cannot approach field past distancing lines to be marked out at each field.
2. Spectators must wear masks even when able to socially distance.
3. Spectators during games are limited to one family member.
4. Bleachers will be closed to ensure distancing from players; spectators will be required to abide by distancing lines along outfield fences.

These guidelines are subject to additional requirements that may be imposed by the City of Newton. Additional guidance and requirements are listed on the Little League website <https://www.littleleague.org/player-safety/coronavirus-update/> and on state website <https://www.mass.gov/doc/executive-order-preparing-for-phase-ii-reopening/download> ; <https://www.mass.gov/doc/outdoor-adult-sports-supervised-youth-sports-leagues-summer-sports-camps/download> .

We encourage all our members to get as much information as possible on the risks involved in this proposed season before making any decision to participate. The health and safety of our players and families is our paramount concern and we will continue to monitor guidance from state and local officials and update our guidelines as needed. Adhering to these guidelines will require cooperation and contributions from each and every family who would like to participate, and we thank you in advance for your support as we work to make playing baseball possible this summer.