

On Field Guidance for Suffield Little League

Suffield little league players and coaches plan on adhering to the following guidelines to maintain the health and safety of all SLL players, coaches/officials and their families.

Personal Contact

Players and coaches plan to limit personal contact including refraining from hand shakes, high fives, fist/elbow bumps, chest bumps, and group celebrations. Little league international suggests lining up and tipping caps to the opposing team as a sign of good sportsmanship after a game.

Players and families will vacate the field as soon as reasonably possible to minimize unnecessary contact with others.

Snacks and Beverages

Athletes coaches and umpires will bring their own personal drinks/snacks to all team activities. There will be no use of shared beverages, snacks or food.

We will kindly request athletes, coaches, and spectators refrain from eating sunflower seeds or chewing gum while on the fields. All players coaches and spectators are to refrain from spitting at all times including in dug outs and on playing fields.

Personal Protective Equipment

Managers/Coaches and Umpires will wear PPE whenever applicable such as face coverings and protective medical gloves as necessary

Face masks may be worn at the discretion of each individual however adherence to social distancing in an outdoor space at present does not require the use of face coverings.

Players will be assigned seats adhering to social distancing while on the bench or while waiting their turn to bat.

Player Equipment

No personal player equipment will be allowed in the dugout. Player equipment should be spaced accordingly outside the dug out to prevent direct contact. There will be markings and signs directing appropriate social distancing spacing.

Players should have their own individual batter's helmet, glove, bat, and catcher's equipment. Players equipment should be cleaned and disinfected after each use by a parent/guardian where applicable.

Baseballs and Softballs

Baseballs and softballs should be rotated through on a regular basis at least every two innings to limit individual contact.

Balls used in infield and outfield warm-up should be isolated from a shared ball container.

Foul balls landing outside the field of play should be retrieved by participating players, coaches, and umpires. No spectators should retrieve the ball.

Risk Assessment

Please stay home when appropriate. Individuals including coaches, officials, players and families should stay home if they have tested positive for COVID-19 or are showing symptoms (fever above 100.4, cough, shortness of breath, chills, muscle pain, sore throat, new loss of taste or smell). Individuals should stay home if they have recently had close contact with a person with COVID-19.

Please refer to CDC criteria and guidelines for a safe return to play. Please check in with Suffield Little League Safety Officer Jennifer Flynn (JJstrat16@yahoo.com) for clearance prior to your return.

All players will have access to hand sanitizer with a minimum of 60% alcohol to sanitize hands prior to getting on and off the field. All fields will have access to first aid kits, hand sanitizer and PPE as necessary.

Players, coaches, umpires and anyone stepping onto the playing fields will have a mandatory temperature check via non contact infrared thermometer after exiting their vehicles prior to entering the fields. This will be a requirement for practices and games until further notice. Should your child have a temperature reading above 100.4 we are kindly requesting you bring your child home and contact your pediatrician for further recommendations. We kindly recommend keeping your child home until they are fever free without the use of fever reducers (Acetaminophen or Ibuprofen) for a minimum of 24 hours and receive clearance from the safety officer.

In closing we are prioritizing the health and safety of all our Suffield Little League members. If you have any safety concerns please feel free to reach out at anytime. We are looking forward to having a great season.

<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/community/schools-childcare/youth-sports.html>

<https://www.littleleague.org/player-safety/coronavirus-update/season-resumption-guide/best-practices/organizing-playing-watching-games/on-field-guidance/>