

MYERS PARK TRINITY LITTLE LEAGUE

RETURN TO PLAY ACTION PLAN

APPROVED DRAFT, UPDATED AUGUST 24, 2020



HISTORY

Since 1952, Myers Park Trinity Little League (MPTLL) has provided countless youth participants within our community the opportunity to play and participate in a recreational baseball and softball program, that has been organized under our League's longstanding charter with Little League International, the world's largest youth sports organization. On June 3, 2020, after 68 straight years of offering youth sports, the Board of Directors for MPTLL made the incredibly difficult decision to cancel our Spring season due to the impact of COVID-19.

As a volunteer-run, 501(c)(3) not-for-profit organization, MPTLL's mission is to provide and perpetuate a quality recreational experience for the youth and the families of our community through participation in baseball and softball. In doing so, safety is, and has always been, our absolute top priority. With that in mind, and while also considering the numerous physical, psychological, emotional, and cognitive benefits that physical activity through the participation in organized sports has been proven to provide to children and adolescents, MPTLL believes that it is critically important to resume our baseball and softball program beginning this Fall. We intend to do so in as safe an environment as possible given the current circumstances and while adhering to all federal, state, and local guidelines. This Return to Play Action Plan will outline the various safety measures and procedures we will implement.

PROTECTION OF OUR PLAYERS & PARTICIPANTS

PRE-SEASON PROGRAM ADMINISTRATION

In addition to posting notice of this Return to Play Action Plan on MPTLL's website and across all MPTLL social media platforms, it will also be mass-distributed via email to all MPTLL coaches, umpires, volunteers, and parents or guardians who have expressed an interest in having their player participant in our Fall baseball or softball programs. Additional documents and resources, such as a Coach's Guide to Returning to Play and a Randolph Park Vehicle Sequencing and Parking Plan, will also be created and distributed to establish best practices and procedures for the Fall season.

PRE-EVENT PLAYER SCREENINGS

Prior to attending MPTLL events, all players, coaches, volunteers, and umpires, will be required to take the following steps:

- Take a self-administered body temperature reading within thirty minutes of arriving to the event and per CDC guidelines any participants who present a body temperature in excess of 100.4 degrees will refrain from attending the event
- Anyone exhibiting symptoms of illness (i.e. sneezing, coughing, congestion, runny nose, headache, sore throat, difficulty breathing, new loss of taste or smell, fever or chills, nausea, diarrhea, etc.) will refrain from attending the event
- Anyone who has known or confirmed close-contact with an individual who has tested positive for COVID-19 will follow the guidance of public health officials and/or will accordingly refrain from attending the event

- Anyone returning from a country, region, or US state with elevated COVID-19 infections should monitor their health and follow the guidance of public health officials

PROTECTIVE MEASURES TAKEN DURING EVENTS

In accordance with direction provided by the North Carolina Department of Health and Human Services, baseball and softball have been deemed non-contact sport activities that are permitted for play given that participants are able to maintain social distancing or have limited and brief close-contact. To further promote safe play, the following steps will be taken during all events:

MEASURES TAKEN IN AND AROUND THE EVENT VENUE

- Anyone who is repeatedly sneezing, coughing, or exhibiting other symptoms consistent with COVID-19 may be asked to immediately cease participation and/or leave the event venue
- Per Mecklenburg County’s Youth and Adult Sports Guidelines, spectators will be prohibited from attending team practices and games
 - EXCEPTION: For player participants who have circumstances which require their parent, guardian, or caretaker to escort them into and out of the venue and/or to remain at the venue during the course of the event, then one parent, guardian, or caretaker per player may be permitted to attend the event. This exception will also apply to those player participants who are age six or younger. Maintaining appropriate social distancing, the practice of good hygiene, and wearing face-coverings shall remain requirements without exception
- MPTLL will establish and distribute a vehicle sequencing and parking plan which will utilize multiple locations in and around Randolph Park for entry, exit, and vehicle staging to help limit the occurrence of personal interactions when player participants are coming to and from the event venue and which will allow for player participants to be dropped-off and picked-up without their parent, guardian, or caretaker exiting their vehicle
- Concession stands will be closed and not open for business
- Signs will be posted at main entrances/exits, as well as, throughout the event venue reminding attendees to maintain a social distance of at least 6 feet, to practice good hygiene, and to follow all face-covering requirements and guidelines as set forth by NCDHHS, Mecklenburg County, and in accordance with the State of North Carolina Executive Orders
- Face-coverings are required when entering and exiting the event venue
- Bleachers and other areas intended for gatherings which surround the fields of play will be marked-off and prohibited from spectator use

MEASURES TAKEN ON-FIELD DURING PRACTICES AND GAMES

- During practices, the use of dugouts will be prohibited to player participants and limited to only being used by authorized team coaches
 - Teams will “expand the dugout” by utilizing pre-designated areas outside of and along the field of play that will allow for appropriate social distancing to be maintained
 - Except for coaches, all other non-player participants will be prohibited from entering the pre-designated dugout expansion areas

- During games, a combination including the use of dugouts and pre-designated areas outside of and along the field of play may be used by player participants and authorized team coaches, so long as appropriate social distancing is maintained
- Person-to-person close-contact and physical contact will be limited by:
 - Prohibiting customary pre-game home plate meetings between umpires and coaches
 - Prohibiting handshakes, high-fives, fist-bumps, elbow-bumps, and/or any other celebratory or group or individual physical contact between players, coaches, and umpires
 - There will be no post-game congratulatory handshake line between teams
- Game balls will only be handled by their own team
 - Umpires will not handle game balls
 - Each team will have their own game balls which they will bring onto and off of the field of play during each defensive inning; foul balls will be returned to the appropriate dugout and will re-enter the field of play without being handled by the umpire or opposing team
- Team drinks and coolers will be prohibited; Each player participant will provide their own drink bottle or small cooler that will be clearly marked with their name and/or uniquely and easily identifiable
- Spitting, consuming sunflower seeds, and chewing gum will be prohibited
- Player participants, coaches, and umpires will be strongly encouraged to bring their own alcohol-based hand sanitizer and the use of shared equipment among player participants will be strongly discouraged
- Pre- and post-game team gatherings and meetings will be prohibited and will only be permitted when appropriate social distancing measures can be maintained

PROTECTION OF VULNERABLE POPULATIONS

There are certain segments of the population who are at an increased risk of severe illness from COVID-19, including individuals who are elderly, those with heart, lung, kidney, or liver disease, those with diabetes, and those with immunodeficiencies. Through regular communication to our participants and their families, we will discourage any individuals who fall into these high-risk categories from attending MPTLL organized events or activities throughout the entirety of our Fall season.

AS A GENERAL RULE applying to all participants, volunteers, coaches, spectators, and attendees, and per current guidelines published by the CDC, those who have been diagnosed with COVID-19 or who are presumed positive by a medical professional due to symptoms, should stay home until:

- No fever for at least 72 hours since recovery (without the use of fever reducing medicine and once other symptoms have improved (i.e. coughing, shortness of breath), AND
- At least 10 days have passed since first symptoms

FURTHER, per current CDC guidelines, if a participant, volunteer, coach, spectator, or attendee, has been diagnosed with COVID-19 but does not have symptoms, they should remain out of sports activity and away from event venues until 10 days have passed since the date of their first positive COVID-19 diagnostic test, assuming they have not subsequently developed symptoms since their positive test.