

Canton Little League Responsible Restart Plan

All Players, Coaches, Spectators, Officials, Employees, etc. must conduct daily symptom assessments of anyone attending practices or games as well as household family members.

If anyone in that player's household is experiencing symptoms, that player should not attend games or practices until it is clear that it is not COVID-19.

<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/symptoms-testing/symptoms.html>

This restart plan is fluid as more information is known about the COVID-19 pandemic. Please be respectful to the players and parent volunteers who will be doing their best to help ensure a safe environment for the children to play baseball/softball again. If you have questions or concerns please contact your player agent.

Canton Little League (CLL) reserves the right to remove players from the program if there is intentional or repeated disregard for this restart plan.

Arrival/Leaving Games and Practices

- ✓ Players are strongly recommended to travel to the venue alone or with a member(s) of their immediate household, if possible. Face coverings are strongly recommended for individuals traveling to and from the venue.
- ✓ All participants, spectators, and employees must adhere to [social distancing](#) while at the facility (except when players are participating in the field of play).
- ✓ No team water coolers or shared drinking stations.
- ✓ Individuals should not congregate in common areas or parking lot following the game or practice.

Players

- ✓ Must adhere to [social distancing](#) practices off the field of play.
- ✓ Must wear face coverings at all times when not actively participating in the field of play.
- ✓ Must not share water or equipment. Belongings should be used only by the individual owner or operator including, but not limited to water bottles, gloves, bats, hats, and other on- and off-field gear.
- ✓ No touch rule – players should refrain from high fives, handshake lines, and other physical contact with teammates, opposing players, coaches, umpires, and fans.
- ✓ No spitting or eating seeds, gum, other similar products.
- ✓ All water bottles and equipment should be clearly labeled.

Spectators

- ✓ Must adhere to [social distancing](#) practices. This includes in and around bleachers for anyone not in the same family.
- ✓ Must not enter player areas (on the field of play or bench areas).
- ✓ Must keep six-feet or more distance from the backstop.

- ✓ Recommended to wear face coverings at all times.
 - ✓ Use your best judgement on who should be attending these events from your family, be sure they are also aware of the rules.
 - ✓ Refrain from children playing on or near benches, equipment boxes, etc.
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Coaches

- ✓ Must adhere to [social distancing](#) practices. [1]
 - ✓ Must wear face coverings if unable to social distance of at least 6 feet
 - ✓ No spitting or eating seeds, gum, or other similar products.
 - ✓ No touch rule – coaches should refrain from high fives, handshake lines, and other physical contact with teammates, opposing players, coaches, umpires, and fans. A “tip the cap” can be used following the game in lieu of the handshake line.
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Practice

- ✓ Must adhere to [social distancing](#) practices. [1]
 - ✓ Coaches must wear face coverings if unable to social distance of at least 6 feet
 - ✓ Players must wear face coverings at all times while not actively participating in the field of play.
 - ✓ No team water coolers or shared drinking stations.
 - ✓ For each practice session, it is recommended that coaches divide players into groups and establish rotating shifts when possible.
 - ✓ Players should bring individual water containers with their names clearly visible.
 - ✓ Whenever possible, equipment and personal items should have proper separation and should not be shared. If equipment must be shared, proper sanitation should be administered between users.
 - ✓ Teams must separate participants into groups of no more than 12, including coaches and staff. Larger playing areas such as athletic fields, may be used by more than one group of 12 at one time, provided that adequate social distance and group separation can be maintained. To ensure group separation, groups must be spaced at least 20 feet apart while sharing a playing surface or field.
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Games

- ✓ Coaches and players must adhere to [social distancing](#) except when the ball is in play. [1]
 - ✓ Each player will have a designated personal space utilizing the area outside the 1st and 3rd base fence line. Players can bring a chair, or stand. Players will be in these assigned spaces at all times when they are not playing, except 1) when the team is in the field, substitute players can be on the bench assuming six-foot distancing can be achieved, and 2) when the team is at bat, the next 4 batters can be on the bench / on deck area.
 - ✓ Coaches must wear face coverings if unable to social distance of at least 6 feet
 - ✓ Players must wear face coverings at all times while not actively participating in the field of play, including those waiting to bat. Batters and baserunners are not required to wear a mask but can do so if they choose.
 - ✓ Umpires will be 6 feet behind the pitcher, not behind the plate.
 - ✓ No team water coolers or shared drinking stations - players should bring labeled individual water containers.
 - ✓ Whenever possible, equipment and personal items should have proper separation and should not be shared. If equipment must be shared, proper sanitation should be administered between users.
 - ✓ The double first base rule used in softball will be used for baseball to create distance and minimize potential contact between the 1st baseman and the runner.
 - ✓ Each team will have its own set of game balls which be used only when that team is in the field. Those baseballs will be disinfected in between innings.
 - ✓ It is recommended that catcher wear a mask or mouth covering.
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COVID19 FAQ

Please bear with us, as we are working through the logistics on how games will be played. As of now we have a general list of procedures, but these are fluid as we understand more about what the state and local guidelines will be for youth sports activities.

By choosing to participate in Canton Little League this Summer, **you understand that there is a potential risk of contracting COVID19**. CLL may require parents and guardians to sign a waiver.

Please see our [Responsible Restart Plan](#) for full list on expected changes to practices and games. Coaches will do their best to keep a safe and clean environment sanitize the game balls and equipment between innings. We are recommending that you have your own helmet.

When will the season start and end?

We will be following the State and Local guidelines on when it is OK to start youth sport activities. At this time, we will start practices in Phase 2, and games in Phase 3. If things go well (3 weeks per phase), then we would like to start games the week of July 6th and run through August 8th with playoffs the following week of August. A shortened summer season for local district play could take place between August 15th and August 30th.

When will games be held?

We have not created schedules yet, but in general kids will play 2 nights during the week and one time during the weekend (Saturday or Sunday games depending on age group). Games will be played at at 5:30 and 7:30pm weeknights.

We plan on taking a week or two vacation this summer. Is it OK if my son misses those games?

Yes, we expect that kids will not be able to make every game. We will have at least 10 players on each team.

How do you plan to separate the kids?

*The more adults we have with the kids, the better we are equipped to ensure the kids are safe. We are asking that parents who are **not** coaching to help monitor the players when they are on the bench. Ensure that players are distancing themselves appropriately, wearing masks, and not horsing around. One parent will be assigned to each game, parents will be responsible for finding their replacement if they cannot attend the game.*

What if we chose not to participate this year?

We completely understand if you do not want to play. If you need a refund, we will send you a check (less \$25 to help offset part of our losses) as soon as we can (please email treasurer.cantonll@gmail.com).

However, we hope that you will consider rolling over your registration fees to a future season (avoiding the \$25 cost). CLL has outlaid significant funds to purchase the uniforms, hats, balls, as well as paying to maintain the fields. As a result, we are not able to issue refunds to every player. We are a non-profit organization that tries to keep registration fees low, so we hope you chose to rollover or donate your registration fees (tax deductible).

[1] <https://www.mass.gov/doc/outdoor-adult-sports-supervised-youth-sports-leagues-summer-sports-camps/download>