



2020 Fall Season COVID-19 Guidelines

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LYNNFIELD LITTLE LEAGUE STATEMENT

The following document will serve as the Lynnfield Little League's guiding principles for the 2020 Fall Season related to COVID-19, and were compiled from various resources including Little League International, the Town of Lynnfield, and the U.S. Centers for Disease Control.

We wish to remind all families and participants that Lynnfield Little League is an organization made up entirely of volunteers. It is our commitment to you that each and every volunteer will do their best to ensure that we are meeting the guidelines and best practices outlined in this document, and that everything we do will be with the health and wellbeing of the players, coaches, and families in mind.

If you are ever uncomfortable in the way practices or games are being conducted, we ask that you respectfully speak to your player's coach directly. Again, the coaches and other volunteers will do the best they can, but we recognize that mistakes will happen – whether there are accidental high-fives, players getting too close together, or face coverings not being worn correctly – but it won't be from lack of effort. These coaches and volunteers deeply care – and it's why they are dedicating their summers to ensuring your children have the best possible baseball experience.

The guidelines listed in this document are for use during Phase II of Massachusetts re-opening. When Governor Baker announces that we are able to move to Phase III, some of these guidelines may be eased or removed all-together. Those decisions will be made following the direction of local, state and Little League International officials.

We thank you for your support, and your continued patience as we work through these most interesting times.

Now... Let's play some baseball!

Lynnfield Baseball Board of Directors

GENERAL REQUIREMENTS

PARTICIPATION WAIVER/NOTE:

1. Parents/guardians of each player must sign an “Assumption of Risk and Waiver of Liability Relating to Coronavirus/COVID-19” prior to the player practicing or playing in games.
2. This waiver acknowledges the contagious nature of COVID-19, and assumes the risk that players may be exposed to or infected by the virus by attending league events.
3. Lynnfield Little League reserves the right to update and/or change these guidelines at any time without prior notice to ensure the safety and health of all participants.

PRACTICES:

1. Practices will be limited to players and coaches only. One adult chaperone can attend, but must remain outside the field of play and are required to social distance from others.
2. Parents/guardians are asked to remain at all practices and games in the event the player feels ill or is injured and needs attention. Coaches will do their best to administer aid as necessary until the parent/guardian can tend to the player.
3. To promote social distancing, dugouts should not be utilized during practices but if they are all players and volunteers need to wear face coverings.
4. Coaches should wear face coverings at all times, no exceptions.
5. Coaches should attempt to separate participants into groups of no more than 10 (including coaches) in order to keep social distancing.
6. Groups are permitted to practice at the same time; however, they must maintain social distancing.
7. No Handshakes/Personal Contact Celebrations.
8. Players, managers/coaches, volunteers should bring their own personal drinks to practice. Drinks should be labeled with the person’s name.
9. Catcher’s equipment: Each team will be provided with two sets of catcher’s equipment. Catcher equipment cannot be shared however, in an emergency equipment can be used by another person as long as a coach or

volunteer firsts wipes down and disinfects all equipment prior to it being used. Additionally, coaches should inform parents and obtain consent prior to providing used equipment to a new player. Families are more than welcome to purchase their own set if their child wishes to catch, but it is not required.

10. Parents/guardians should clean and disinfect players' equipment after each practice/game.

GAMES:

Before Games:

1. NOTE: The Town of Lynnfield will **not** be provide restrooms or portable toilets this season.
2. Lynnfield Little League requires all spectators to wear face coverings, unless they can maintain social distancing. Our fields are large enough that each family should have enough room to remain socially distant. We respectfully ask that if you cannot be socially distant from other spectators you wear a face covering in accordance with Commonwealth guidelines.
3. Spectators are encouraged to bring their own seating or portable chairs when possible.
4. **Coaches, and umpires must conduct a daily symptom assessment (self-evaluation) prior to going to the field. Parents/guardians should conduct a daily symptom assessment for their players prior going to the field. Anyone experiencing any symptoms must stay home. The self-assessment consist of the following items and people with these symptoms may have COVID-19 but should not be attending baseball events:**
 - a. **Fever or chills**
 - b. **Cough**
 - c. **Shortness of breath or difficulty breathing**
 - d. **Fatigue**
 - e. **Muscle or body aches**
 - f. **Headache**
 - g. **New loss of taste or smell**

- h. Sore throat**
 - i. Congestion or runny nose**
 - j. Nausea or vomiting**
 - k. Diarrhea**
5. Each team will maintain a supply of sanitizing wipes and disinfectant sprays.
 6. Players should do their best to keep their equipment in their bags at all times.
 7. Each team will have a separate set of balls used only for warmups.
 8. Pre-game meeting at home plate should be socially distanced and limited to the necessities of the game, should be two minutes or less.
 9. Confirm with arriving players, coaches and umpires that they all feel healthy. **Anyone showing symptoms, including but not limited to, coughing or fever, must be sent home.**
 10. Confirm with players that they did not bring gum or sunflower seeds to the game. If they did they should return it to their car or parents.
 11. To minimize unnecessary contact, players should arrive to the field no earlier than **30 minutes** prior the game. If players arrive earlier, they should remain in their cars.
 12. Managers should identify sitting spots for players while in the dugout, in order to maintain social distancing. In some cases this will mean players are not all in the dugout at the same time, depending on dugout size.

During Games:

1. Managers, coaches, volunteers and umpires are required to wear face coverings at all times. Players are required to wear face coverings when batting. A batter must wear it until he reaches base, his/her choice after that whether to continue wearing a face covering. It is suggested that players bring a zip-lock bag with their name on it to place their face covering in while not being used.
2. Players are **not** required to wear face coverings while on the field of play unless they choose to do so, or their parent/guardian or health care professional requires it.

3. While not on the playing field, managers, coaches and players should do their best to remain six feet apart. Designated areas will be set up at each field location.
- 4. If any individual develops symptoms of Covid-19 during the activity, they should promptly inform Lynnfield Little League and must remove themselves from the activity.**
5. Players should do their best not share any equipment, including bats, gloves, batting gloves, helmets, and catching equipment. Catching equipment should be cleaned and disinfected by a designated coach, with wipes/spray provided, in between usage by different players.
6. Players' equipment should be spaced evenly in or outside the dugout to prevent direct contact.
7. The use of gum and sunflower seeds is prohibited as to avoid spitting. Additionally, players and coaches should refrain from spitting in the dugout or on the field.
8. Sharing beverages is prohibited. Drinks should be labeled with the player's or coach's name.
9. No handshakes, high fives, fist bumps, group celebrations, etc.
10. Game balls will be provided by the defensive team. No sharing of game balls.
11. Umpires are not to have contact with the ball, and defensive players should retrieve all foul and passed balls that are still in the field of play.
12. Foul balls out of the field of play should be retrieved by a participant of the game and not a spectator.
13. Players should sanitize hands as needed.
14. Spectators should maintain social distancing and cannot congregate around the dugout or behind home plate. They are encouraged to bring portable chairs when possible.

After Games:

1. Post-game handshakes, fist-bumps, hugs, group celebrations, etc. are prohibited.
2. Coaches should sanitize anything they deem needs disinfecting.

3. Dispose of rubber gloves, if any, in appropriate trash receptacles.
4. Players and families should vacate the field/facility as soon as it is reasonably possible after the conclusion of their game/practice to minimize unnecessary contact with players, coaches and spectators from the next game/practice ideally within 20 minutes.
5. Parents/guardians should clean and disinfect player's equipment after each practice/game.
6. If any individual develops symptoms of Covid-19 within 2 weeks after a game or practice, they should promptly notify their Lynnfield Little League Manager after contacting medical and local health officials.

FINAL DISCLAIMER

Lynnfield Little League managers, coaches, umpires, and board members are all volunteers, and are involved for the benefit of your children. We will not tolerate spectators that are not following the guidelines we have provided. As the permitted user of the field, our volunteers retain the right to remove spectators if they refuse to abide by the guidelines we have set forth. Let's all work together to make this as positive an environment as possible for our players and coaches.