

NSELL 2021 Season Plan

Newton SouthEast Little League has strived to provide a safe and enjoyable baseball experience for our members during COVID-19. We have been working with the City of Newton and utilizing City, State and Little League International guidelines to determine how best we can offer a program to our players, coaches, and families. The following plan is based on those guidelines and our experience successfully operating our league in the summer and fall of 2020.

Please note that these guidelines may change in response to updated rules from government agencies. Updated policies will be posted on the NSELL website.

- **NSELL will provide a spring 2021 program for all players.** There may be interleague play scheduled at the discretion of NSELL.
- **Our policy is that no child should be denied the opportunity to play baseball due to a family's financial situation. Please email info@newtonsoutheastll.org if you would like to make a confidential request for a scholarship.**
- **In the event that conditions change and we are unable to safely operate a program we will endeavor to again refund all fees in full.**

Little League International has published guidelines for a return to play on their website at <https://www.littleleague.org/player-safety/coronavirus-update>.

We encourage all members to get as much information as possible on the risks involved before deciding to participate. Our focus is on the health and safety of our players, families and volunteers as we navigate this situation, and we will follow all guidance from state and local officials.

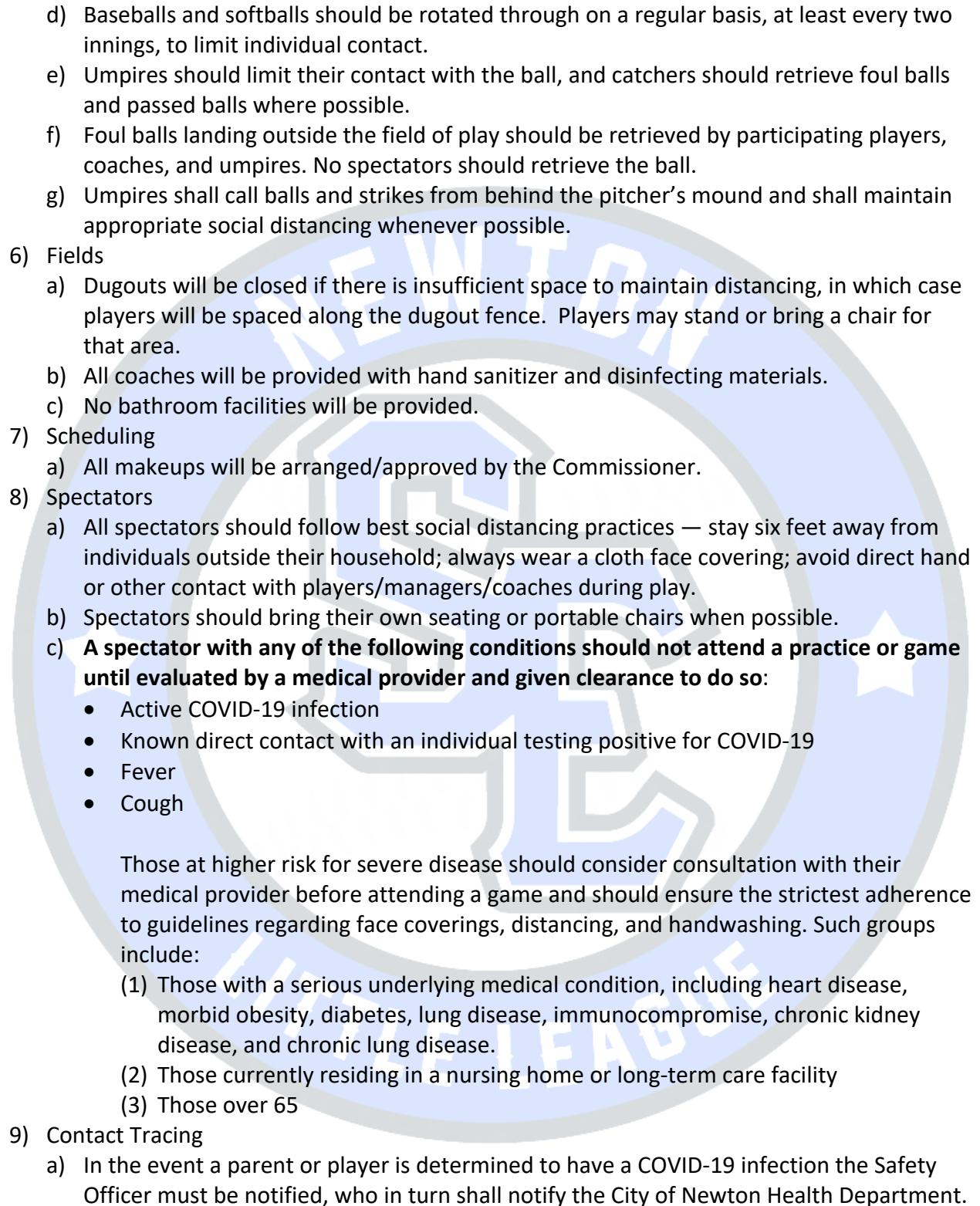
NSELL 2021 Season Safety Guidelines

After review with the City of Newton, the guidelines for the season, based on the Little League International Best Practices (<https://www.littleleague.org/downloads/best-practices/>) are as follows:

- 1) General Guidelines
 - a) All players, coaches, volunteers, umpires, individual contractors, and spectators shall practice social distancing of six feet wherever possible from individuals not residing within their household, especially in common areas. No one other than coaches, players or on-field personnel are permitted in or behind the physical or extended dugouts.
 - b) All individuals should measure their body temperature to ensure that no fever is present prior to participating or attending each Little League activity. Anyone with symptoms of

fever, cough, or worsening respiratory symptoms, or any known exposure to a person with COVID-19 should not attend any Little League activity until cleared by a medical professional (CDC Resource: If You Are Sick or Caring For Someone <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/downloads/sick-with-2019-nCoV-fact-sheet.pdf>)

- c) Any individual, including players, at risk for severe illness or with serious underlying medical or respiratory condition should only attend NSELL activities with permission from a medical professional.
- 2) On-Field Guidelines
 - a) 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. Little League International suggests lining up outside the dugout and tipping caps to the opposing team as a sign of good sportsmanship after a game.
 - b) Players and families should vacate the field/facility as soon as is reasonably possible after the conclusion of their game to minimize unnecessary contact with players, coaches, and spectators from the next game, ideally within 20 minutes.
 - c) All games and practices shall be scheduled with 30 minutes in between each event where no players are allowed on the field or dugouts.
 - d) All hard surfaces will be disinfected by coaches or volunteers after each event.
 - 3) Drinks and Snacks
 - a) Athletes, managers/coaches, and umpires should bring their own personal drinks to all team activities. Drinks should be labeled with the person's name.
 - b) Teams may not share any snacks or food. Players should bring individual, pre-packaged food, if needed.
 - c) No gum or sunflower seeds are permitted.
 - 4) Personal Protective Equipment (PPE)
 - a) All managers, coaches, umpires and volunteers will always wear a face covering if physically able and are permitted to wear protective medical gloves.
 - b) Players must always wear a face covering when not on the playing field, including in the dugouts. Buffs and similar coverings (neck gaiters which can be pulled up over the mouth and nose) are permitted.
 - c) Batters must wear a face covering both at the plate and on the bases.
 - d) Players may wear a face covering on the field during game play, at the direction of a medical provider or individual determination of the player/parent/guardian/caretaker.
 - 5) Game Play and Equipment
 - a) No personal player bat bags/equipment bags should be allowed in the dugout. Player equipment should be spaced accordingly outside the dugout to prevent direct contact.
 - b) Players should have their own individual batter's helmet, glove, bat, and catcher's equipment.
 - c) Player's equipment (e.g. bags, helmets, bats, gloves, etc.) should be cleaned and disinfected per CDC recommendations after each use by a parent/guardian/caretaker, where applicable.

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- d) Baseballs and softballs should be rotated through on a regular basis, at least every two innings, to limit individual contact.
- e) Umpires should limit their contact with the ball, and catchers should retrieve foul balls and passed balls where possible.
- f) Foul balls landing outside the field of play should be retrieved by participating players, coaches, and umpires. No spectators should retrieve the ball.
- g) Umpires shall call balls and strikes from behind the pitcher's mound and shall maintain appropriate social distancing whenever possible.
- 6) Fields
- a) Dugouts will be closed if there is insufficient space to maintain distancing, in which case players will be spaced along the dugout fence. Players may stand or bring a chair for that area.
- b) All coaches will be provided with hand sanitizer and disinfecting materials.
- c) No bathroom facilities will be provided.
- 7) Scheduling
- a) All makeups will be arranged/approved by the Commissioner.
- 8) Spectators
- a) All spectators should follow best social distancing practices — stay six feet away from individuals outside their household; always wear a cloth face covering; avoid direct hand or other contact with players/managers/coaches during play.
- b) Spectators should bring their own seating or portable chairs when possible.
- c) **A spectator with any of the following conditions should not attend a practice or game until evaluated by a medical provider and given clearance to do so:**
- Active COVID-19 infection
 - Known direct contact with an individual testing positive for COVID-19
 - Fever
 - Cough
- Those at higher risk for severe disease should consider consultation with their medical provider before attending a game and should ensure the strictest adherence to guidelines regarding face coverings, distancing, and handwashing. Such groups include:
- (1) Those with a serious underlying medical condition, including heart disease, morbid obesity, diabetes, lung disease, immunocompromise, chronic kidney disease, and chronic lung disease.
- (2) Those currently residing in a nursing home or long-term care facility
- (3) Those over 65
- 9) Contact Tracing
- a) In the event a parent or player is determined to have a COVID-19 infection the Safety Officer must be notified, who in turn shall notify the City of Newton Health Department.

If you have any questions please feel free to contact NSELL via email at info@newtonsoutheastll.org.

Thank you again for your patience and assistance – as an all-volunteer organization we depend on the help and participation of our players, families and volunteers to provide a safe and enjoyable experience for all, and your understanding and cooperation is essential to our continued success.

