

NEWTON SOUTH EAST LITTLE LEAGUE (NSELL #2211006) NEWTON, MA

2021 QUALIFIED SAFETY PLAN REQUIREMENTS

1. League Safety Officer: M. Whitney Kelting on file with Little League International
2. Safety Manual Distribution: NSELL will distribute an electronic copy of the complete Safety Manual to all Managers and Coaches and the District Administrator, maintain an office copy of this Safety Manual, and have copies available for download from our website for volunteers.
3. Emergency Procedure and Phone Numbers: Call 911 for Emergencies. Non-emergency injuries: Coaches and managers to administer basic First Aid. Injuries to be tracked and reported as per Safety Manual rules to league Safety Officer.

In the event of a positive Covid-19 test or potential exposure, the player and all members of the household must not attend any NSELL related activities effective immediately. The player's manager, the division commissioner, and the league Safety Officer should be informed immediately. The parents should also follow all city of Newton and commonwealth of Massachusetts public health reporting protocols for contact tracing. NSELL will cooperate with all city and state agencies in support of contact tracing efforts. If a player or family member has been out of the commonwealth of Massachusetts, they may only return to NSELL activities after complying with the state quarantine regulations.

All efforts at exposure mitigation are crucial to keeping our players and our community safe. We expect all players, volunteers, and players' families to follow the city and state guidelines as well as the protocols established by the league. These protocols will be sent to all families and volunteers and are posted on the league website.

Ambulance, Police, Fire: Dial 911

LEAGUE OFFICERS:

<u>Title:</u>	<u>Name:</u>	<u>Phone:</u>
President:	Steve Brooks	(617) 699-2628
VP Operations:	Dave Goldblatt	(617) 308-5058
VP Baseball:	Kevin Flannery	(617) 281-3058
Treasurer:	Buzz Dunker	(617) 921-1114
Player Agent:	Benjamin Schlesinger	(617) 549-9262
Safety Officer:	Whitney Kelting	(857) 225-0883
General Counsel/Umpire in Chief:	Elliott Loew	(617) 969-2660

4. Volunteer Application: NSELL uses the Official Little League Volunteer Application form to screen all of our volunteer applicants. This includes anyone who is on the field or working with the players. Be sure all your parents who help out register. Anyone refusing to complete and submit a Volunteer Application is ineligible to be a league member or volunteer. These forms will remain

confidential and the League President will retain these for the year of service. All volunteers sign our Zero Tolerance Policy (attached below).

In line with federal law making all youth sports volunteers mandated reporters of child abuse, all NSELL volunteers must take the Safesport Abuse Awareness course on line available at <https://uscenterforsafesport.org/training-and-education/training-and-education-services/>

5. Fundamentals Training: A coach's clinic will be held outdoors in the first weeks of the spring season, with a make-up day held later in the season for those unable to attend. The league also suggests watching the recommended "coach the coach" videos which we will be sending out with our newsletter. At least one manager or coach from each team must attend training. Every manager and coach must attend fundamentals training at least once every 3 years. Attendance is to be documented. The league does on-going Coach-the-Coaches clinics in the early part of spring season.

6. First Aid Training: NSELL is asking all coaches and managers from each team to take an on-line first aid training paid for by the league and available through SAFE baseball. Each volunteer will receive a link to the safety/first aid course but you are welcome to find out more at <https://www.safebaseball.com/>. Little League International and NSELL will require at least one coach or manager from each team to take this course. All coaches and managers must complete this training at least once every 3 years (with the exception of those who are physicians, nurses or other trained medical professionals). Attendance is to be documented. This is **not** the same training as the Abuse Prevention training required by the federal government. The information about that is under point 4 above.

NSELL also asks that every team have at least one manager or coach present at the Covid-19 protocol meeting which will be scheduled the week of team announcements. We also suggest that each team assign a volunteer to help with covid-19 protocol compliance.

Little League strongly suggests coaches and parents learn more about youth concussions. Follow this link to learn more. <https://www.littleleague.org/player-safety/concussions-youth-athletes/>

7. Field Inspections: Coaches will be required to inspect the fields prior to practices and games. Umpires will also be required to walk the fields for hazards before each game, and are responsible to correct or remove hazards before play commences or resumes, if possible, or to suspend use of field until hazards are corrected.

8. Facility Survey: NSELL has completed and updated our 201 Facility Survey on Dec. 10th, 2021.

9. Concession Stand Safety: Does not apply. NSELL does not operate concessions.

10. Regular Inspection and Replacement of Equipment: Coaches/Managers and Umpires will be required to inspect equipment (bats, helmets, catching gear) prior to each game. Coaches will ensure that unsafe or out-of-specification equipment player-owned equipment is removed from the dugout and play area, and that such equipment owned by the NSELL is removed from play and destroyed or rendered unusable. Little League is particularly concerned with bat safety and has banned most composite-barreled bats. For an up-to-date list of legal bats, go to the Little League website <http://www.littleleague.org/learn/equipment/baseballbatinfo.htm> or to the USAbaseball site for their details of the new bat standard <https://usabat.com/>. The only exception is the use of previously approved T-ball bats at the T-ball level. These bats must be marked with a LL approved for T-ball sticker. <https://usabat.com/approved-tee-balls/>. Here is the link to decertified bats: <https://usabat.com/decertified-bats/>

11. Prompt Accident Reporting and Tracking Procedure: Accidents will be reported to the Safety Officer using the Incident Tracking Form provided by Little League within 24-48 hours of an incident. “Near-misses” (incidents with no injury or damage consequence) will be tracked as a proactive tool to evaluate practices and prevent injury. Information on accidents and “near misses” reported to the Safety Officer will be shared with District.

12. First Aid Kits: At least one First Aid Kit, additional ice packs, and Covid-19 protocol supplies will be supplied to each manager. If the kit or its contents or other supplies become destroyed, rendered unusable or are exhausted, the coaches should request a new kit from the League Equipment Manager or Safety Officer.

13. Enforcement of Little League Rules: All Little League rules will be enforced by NSELL officers and by coaches and managers during play. NSELL will ensure that players are properly equipped during play. Managers and coaches are reminded that they are not allowed to catch pitchers, including standing at a backstop as an informal batting practice catcher. Little League International has drawn special attention to this rule this year. All catchers must be wearing proper full catcher’s gear as well as a protective cup. There are No On Deck batters permitted in Little League.

14. League Player Registration Data or Player Roster Data, Coach and Manager Data The player, coach and manager data will be submitted to Little League International on April 1st, 2021. The actual final team rosters will be submitted as soon as teams are set and completed registration materials will be submitted before June 15, 2021.

15. NSELL’s Qualified Safety Plan Registration form was submitted with ASAP plan on Jan. 14th, 2021. The survey questions were answered in the Data Center at this time.

OPTIONAL SAFETY PLAN ITEMS (from ASAP “Recommended” List)

Criminal Checks: NSELL conducts electronic criminal background checks on all volunteers through LexisNexis.

Safety Officer on Board: NSELL’s Safety Officer is a member of the Board of Directors.

Budget for Safety: Part of the annual budget of NSELL is dedicated to safety issues (e.g., purchase of replacement equipment, purchase of First Aid Kits, subscription to Coaching Clinics, purchase of Coaching materials).

Heat Illnesses: Coaches will be instructed about heat illnesses and their warning signs.

Weather and Other Conditions: NSELL teaches managers and coaches to stop play for weather (lightning, rain), take water breaks between innings, take shade in high heat conditions.

Sports Fundamentals: Coaches will be instructed on proper warm ups, safe practices and games and other sports fundamentals through a variety of Coach the Coaches clinics in the off-season and during the spring season.

Annual assessment of long-range facility plans includes addressing safety concerns and improvements.

Reduced Impact Balls: NSELL uses reduced impact balls for younger players.

Safe Bases: NSELL uses disengage-able bases for all fields.

Fence Tops: NSELL uses protective fence tops to protect fielders.

Cell phone service is available at all fields.

All taller bleachers have back fence and side rails.

NSELL has safety suggestion “box” on website.

NSELL newsletter includes safety messages.

Protective Cups: NSELL encourages use of protective cups for all players. A player may not play catcher without a protective cup by Little League rules.

Newton SouthEast Little League Game and Practice Covid-19 Protocols

Kids will be kids; it is up to the adults (coaches, volunteers and parents) to ensure they follow Massachusetts mandates for both the safety of our community and so we do not have our league shutdown. Each team should designate a covid-compliance volunteer who helps the managers and coaches ensure that covid protocols are followed.

Arrival

Each player should be assigned a marked location at least six feet apart from all others where they will stay whenever they are not on the field for play. Their gear including any water bottles or snacks should all be with them at that spot. No sharing of any gear.

Coaches should make sure that catcher's gear is not shared. Each catcher must be given a set of freshly disinfected gear to use for the game that will not be shared during the game. The coach is responsible for making sure that the team catcher's gear is all disinfected after and before each game.

There will be no plate meeting with the umpires.

During the game

All managers, coaches, umpires, and spectators must be wearing a mask that covers both nose and mouth.

All players must wear mask at all times that covers both nose and mouth.

NSELL recommends that coaches do not use the dugout at all and no player should have any gear stowed in the dugout. Players also need to be maintaining distance at all times except on the field while in play. [Massachusetts mandates that teams cannot use dugouts for more than the number of players who can be six feet apart. This means a maximum of 3 people including a coach in the dugout.]

To assist in giving coaches room to spread out the players safely, we have asked that parents set themselves up along the outfield fence or beyond the foul ball territory past first or third base. For our youngest players (T-ball and Farm) we ask parents to be set up well back from the foul line unless specifically directed otherwise by the coaches or umpire. NO parents are permitted to set up from first base to third base. This is an important part of our protocols. All parents will be made aware of this.

Baseballs must be rotated out of play and disinfected after maximum of two innings.

Foul balls should only be retrieved by players or coaches. Passed balls and foul backs should be retrieved by the catcher. Bats should be retrieved by the coaches.

Umpires will call balls and strikes from behind the pitcher's mound at a safe distance.

Spectators should be wearing masks and should not come within six feet of any other spectators and should not come into contact with any players, coaches or umpires during the game. Only spectators from a single home should be seated together.

Players, coaches and spectators cannot come in physical contact with a player in handshakes, fist bumps or other contact not required for play. No team snacks permitted.

Players should sanitize hands upon arrival at the game and after each half inning both on the field or batting. We strongly recommend they do so before leaving the game.

After the Game

The managers are responsible for making sure there is no trash or gear left at the field after the game. Best practice is to have each player make sure their area is completely empty before they are excused to go. Any shared areas should be cleared of trash and the trash removed from the site and disposed of in a garbage can on site or elsewhere.

The managers must disinfect any surfaces touch by players and any tools used from the shed, including the lock and shed door handles. Best practice is to leave the surface wet with disinfectant rather than to dry it off.

Coaches are also still responsible for leaving the fields ready for the next game and the shed locked.

All of these protocols are necessary to keep our community safer and to be compliant with MA, LLI and CDC directives for youth sports. For more information see NSELL's plan for 2021 season (with LLI and Newton links) at

<https://s3.amazonaws.com/files.leagueathletics.com/Text/Documents/8977/98565.pdf>

Covid Compliance Volunteer:

It was suggested to have the covid compliance volunteer serve as a traffic person for the players coming and going off the field to help them maintain distance instead of clumping up like they do naturally. We are going to ask each team to recruit a person to help the players and teams be compliant with all local and state mandates. This person should be someone who is not involved with coaching the game. This person will need to register with the league as a volunteer and wear a mask 100% of the time. This will increase the likelihood of a successful season this spring and help set good expectations and best practices for the summer and fall should we need to continue these protocols. I am hoping that instituting this volunteer position will make it easier for teams to stay compliant.