

Coginchaug Little League Guidelines and Protocols - 2020 Season

Leagues:

All players, coaches, umpires, volunteers and spectators must observe social distancing requirements at all league activities

All players, coaches, umpires, volunteers and spectators must complete a daily self-health screening and cannot attend league activities when COVID-19 symptoms are present

Players, coaches, umpires, volunteers, and spectators with any of the following conditions should not attend league activities until evaluated by a medical professional and given clearance to do so:

- Active COVID-19 infection
- Known direct contact with an individual testing positive for COVID-19
- Fever or cough
- Persons 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:
 - Those with a serious underlying medical condition, including heart disease, morbid obesity, diabetes, lung disease, immunocompromise, chronic kidney disease, and chronic lung disease
 - Those currently residing in a nursing home or long-term care facility
 - Those over 65

Leagues must have a Staff person or Team Volunteer on hand at all games/practices to monitor compliance with the Guidelines

Staff/Volunteer must wear face covering¹ at all times, unless doing so is adverse to their personal health/safety

All common surface areas must be sanitized/disinfected before and after events (dugouts, bleachers, door handles to concession, field houses, concession counters etc.)

Bathrooms must be sanitized/disinfected frequently

Games/Practices should be scheduled with a minimum of a half hour in between to avoid large groups of players and spectators at the fields at the same time

Hand Sanitizers/wipes should be provided for common areas

Guidelines and social distancing reminders should be posted at fields

One way in and one way out of fields should be marked, where possible

¹Face coverings are not limited to masks and include any cloth garment that provides complete coverage of the nose and mouth area, including activity masks, gators, and scarves.

Players:

Players will not be required to wear a face covering while in the field of play, but must wear face coverings at all other times, including arrival/departure from facilities and while on the bench during games and practices, unless doing so is adverse to their personal health/safety

Players are permitted to wear a face covering while on the field if they prefer to do so

A maximum of three players will be permitted in a dugout at any time; other players must observe proper social distancing outside the dugout and spaced six feet apart to prevent direct contact by others

Players must bring their own equipment (bat, glove, helmet, batting gloves, water bottle and hand sanitizer) and keep their equipment bags outside the dugout at all times

No spitting, sunflower seed eating, or gum chewing is allowed

No handshakes, high-fives or physical body contact allowed

If catchers gear is shared among teammates, it must be sanitized/disinfected between uses

Coaches/Volunteers:

Coaches and volunteers must practice social distancing and wear face coverings, unless doing so is adverse to their personal health/safety

Coaches and volunteers must wear gloves due to the need to handle game balls, player's equipment, any shared equipment, and cleaning materials

Coaches must adhere to social distancing guidelines when organizing practices by splitting players into smaller group activities and by avoiding the stacking of players for drills or the use of batting cages

No team huddles or group meetings are allowed

No shared water jugs are allowed

No spitting, sunflower seed eating, or gum chewing is allowed

No handshakes, high fives or physical body contact allowed

Spectators/Parents:

Must wear face coverings at all times, unless doing so is adverse to their personal health/safety

Must observe social distancing guidelines at all times, including arrival at/departure from league facilities

Will only be permitted in designated areas along the outfield, and will not be permitted near the dugouts or home plate areas

Should not retrieve or touch foul balls outside the field of play. Only players, coaches, umpires, and designated league officials may do so.

Spectators should bring their own seating or portable chairs

Spectators should not hang around the field before or after the games/practices to socialize

During the initial weeks of the Phase 2 reopening, no more than 100 attendees are permitted at a given event, including players, coaches, umpire, volunteers and spectators. It is anticipated that the State of Connecticut will increase that number to 250 attendees by mid-July.

Umpires:

Must wear a face coverings, unless doing so is adverse to their personal health/safety

Will position themselves behind the pitchers – far enough to practice social distancing but still be able to call balls and strike

Will not handle game balls or player equipment, including bats

Only one umpire per game

General Game Notes:

Each team will bring their own set of game balls, which they will use when on defense

Game balls will be switched out every two innings or sanitized between use

A maximum of three players (batter, on-deck batter and player in the hole) can be in dugout when team is on offense, and the rest of team should line up along the fence outside dugout or in bleachers while practicing social distancing and wearing face coverings

Leagues should have a minimum of two weeks of practices before starting any leagues games to avoid any injuries to players

Pitchers should be limited in number of pitches/innings during the first few weeks of games, in order to build up their arm strength – then follow Little League guidelines for pitch limits

These Guidelines and Safety Protocols were adopted by the Board of Directors of Coginchaug Little League at its June 17, 2020 meeting, in accordance with the guidelines for youth sports promulgated by the State of Connecticut and Little League International, and in consultation with the health directors of all District 9 towns.