

FC Little League

Additional Safety Measures & Guidance for Gameplay During COVID Event

Social Distancing:

- All players, coaches, volunteers, and spectators should practice social distancing of six feet wherever possible from individuals not residing within their household.

Self-monitoring and quarantine:

- 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
- Any individual, including players, at risk for severe illness or with serious underlying medical or respiratory conditions should only attend Little League activities with permission from a medical professional.

Handshakes/Personal Contact Celebrations:

- Players and coaches should take measures to prevent all but the essential contact necessary to play the game. This includes refraining from handshakes, high fives, fist/elbow 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.
- 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 15 minutes.

Drinks and Snacks:

- Athletes, managers/coaches, and umpires should bring their own personal drinks to all team activities. Drinks should be labeled with the person's name. Drink containers should be taken home each night for cleaning and sanitation or use single-use bottles.
- There should be no use of shared beverages or snacks
- Players should bring individual, pre-packaged food, if needed.
- Concession stand has been moved to credit card only transactions, no cash

Personal Protective Equipment (PPE):

- Players should not wear protective medical gloves on the field during game play.
- Players will be permitted to wear a cloth face covering on the field during game play, if physically able to do so, based on any directive of a medical provider or individual determination of the player/parent/guardian.

Dugouts:

- Managers/coaches and players should be assigned spots in the dugout or on the bleachers so that they are at least six feet apart.
- Hand sanitizer dispensers have been installed in all dugouts
- During the offensive half of the inning, players will be spread out in both the dugout area and bleacher area adjacent to the dugout to maintain a safe distance.
- Trash cans will be removed from the dugout. Players and coaches should remove all trash when exiting the dugout.

Player Equipment:

- Players are encouraged to bring their own hand sanitizer for personal use.
- No personal player bat bags/equipment bags should be allowed in the dugout. Player equipment should be spaced accordingly along the fence beyond the dugout.
- Players should have their own individual batter's helmet, glove and bat.
- If it is necessary to share critical/limited equipment (catcher's gear), all surfaces of each piece of shared equipment must be cleaned first and then disinfected by a coach before being used by a new player. Increased attention should be paid to detailed cleaning of all equipment directly contacting the head and face (catcher's mask, helmets).
- Catcher position eliminated for both Intro and Beginner Leagues
- Individuals disinfecting equipment are encouraged to use gloves while using disinfectants. All disinfectants should be stored properly, in a safe area, out of reach of children.

Baseballs and Softballs:

- Umpires should limit their contact with the ball, and catchers should retrieve foul balls and passed balls where possible.
- Balls used in infield/outfield warm-up should be isolated from a shared ball container.
- Foul balls landing outside the field of play should be retrieved by participating players, coaches, and umpires. No spectators should retrieve the ball.

Spitting, Sunflower Seeds, Gum, etc.:

- Sunflower seeds, gum, etc., will not be allowed in dugouts or on the playing field.
- All players and coaches are to refrain from spitting in any area at all times.

Pre-Game Plate Meetings:

- If possible, plate meetings should be eliminated. If required, plate meetings should only consist of one manager or coach from each team, and game umpires.
- Social distancing of six feet between individuals should be implemented during all pre-game plate meetings between teams and umpires.
- No players should ever be a part of plate meetings.

Limit League/Game Volunteers:

- For each game, there should only be the required team managers/coaches, umpires, and one (1) league administrator (i.e. Safety Officer, player agent, etc.) in attendance.
- Practices should be limited to the managers/coaches and players.
- Scorekeeping should be done by team coaches or team parent/guardian. Proper social distancing should be practiced.

Field Preparation and Maintenance:

- It is encouraged that volunteers already participating in the game (managers/coaches, umpires, and league administrator) perform these tasks to limit individuals at the site.
- It is recommended that any shared field preparation equipment be sprayed or wiped with cleaner and disinfectant before and after each use.

Umpire Placement:

- Umpires are permitted to be placed behind the pitcher's mound/circle to call balls and strikes. Umpires are encouraged to keep a safe distance from players as much as possible and wear protective gloves.
- If physically able, umpires are allowed to wear cloth face coverings while umpiring.

Spread Out Scheduling of Practices and Games:

- Players/families/spectators are instructed not to show up to fields more than 20 minutes before game time.
- Players and spectators should remain in their vehicles if they arrive early.
- Game times will be spread out to alleviate the amount of individuals at the ballpark and to allow for sanitizing of dugouts between games. First games to start at 5:30pm, second game at 7:30pm. (5:30/7:15 for intro/beginner)
- If there is a game or practice prior to your event, families and spectators are encouraged to stay in their vehicles or at recommended social distances until the start of their game play to prevent overcrowding of spectator spaces and walkways.
- On-field warm-up should be limited as much as reasonably possible and no more than 10 minutes.

Spectators:

- Fans should be limited to immediate family members only
- Parents are strongly encouraged to bring their own chairs to watch games

Restrooms:

- Restrooms will be limited to one person at a time (a parent or guardian can join a younger child if necessary)