

BEST PRACTICE GUIDELINES FOR RESUMING BASEBALL ACTIVITIES

All coaches, players, parent volunteers will adhere to government guidelines and restrictions regarding social distancing. During this initial phase that means keeping 6ft distance when feasible on and off the field during practices and games.

League/Game Volunteers:

- Practices should be limited to the managers/coaches and players.
- Coaches and players will be asked to self-monitor symptoms and health issues before coming to practice. Anyone experiencing symptoms of any illness is asked to stay home.

Personal Protective Equipment (PPE):

- All managers/coaches, players, volunteers, umpires, etc., are encouraged to bring a mask in their equipment bag, such as cloth face coverings and protective medical gloves.
- Coaches/Players are allowed to wear cloth face coverings when in close contact areas and in places where recommended social distancing is challenging or not feasible, such as in dugouts.

Dugouts and Player Equipment:

- Coaches and players should be assigned spots in the dugout or on the bleachers so that they are at least six feet apart.
- Players are, to the best of their ability, stay at their assigned spots when on the bench or while waiting their turn to bat.
- Players equipment will be spaced so they are at least six feet apart inside and outside the dugout to prevent direct contact.
- Players should have their own individual batter's helmet, glove, bat, and catcher's equipment.
- Measures have been enacted to avoid, or minimize, equipment sharing when feasible.
- Baseballs and softballs should be rotated through on a regular basis, i.e. at least every two innings, to limit individual contact.

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.

Drinks and Snacks:

- Athletes, managers/coaches, and umpires must bring their own personal drinks to all team activities. Drinks should be labeled with the person's name.
- Teams will not allow any food in the dugout.
- Sunflower seeds, gum, etc., should not be allowed in dugouts or on the playing field.

Public Restrooms:

- Access to public restrooms will be limited.
- A “one-in-one-out” policy, where only one individual is permitted within the restroom at one time.
- Prior to and after any league activity, restrooms should be thoroughly cleaned and disinfected. Restrooms should be disinfected on a regular basis.

Concession Stands:

- No food or concession sales will be allowed at facilities.
- Families should dispose of their own trash in the receptacles at the field.

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.
- Umpires should limit their contact with the ball, and catchers should retrieve foul balls and passed balls where possible.

General Information:

- GPFCLL will disseminate information to all families, volunteers, and spectators about the Coronavirus risk and the efforts our league will be undertaking to mitigate those risks, as outlined above. Information will be disseminated by way of email, league website, social media, coach talks, and public announcements.
- 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 condition should only attend Little League activities with permission from a medical professional.